



Students cross Cummings Lane North after school. Cummings principal implored members of the Keizer Traffic Safety Committee to prioritize pedestrian upgrades around the school.

SIDEWALK, continued from Page A1

While the city's street fund is one of the more solvent funds in the city's budget, Lawyer said previous commitments have a priority in the immediate future. This summer, the city is replacing the

bridge on Dearborn Avenue Northeast. After that, the city is on the hook for a portion of the funding to install a new traffic signal at the transit center in Keizer station.

"Realistically, the soonest we can get to it would be during the 2018-19 fiscal year," Lawyer said.

He's hoping to have a

clearer picture in the next six months as the plans at the transit center are fleshed out.

In the interim, Mangan has asked the Salem-Keizer School District to help alleviate the situation. Mangan said the school district plans to have a gravel path installed inside the fence around the field to the north of the school. She hopes it will keep students within the fence and not walking around cars that park outside of it.

"At least with that, students can be safe until they reach Evans (Street North)," Mangan said.

Cummings has about 440 students and only 50 take a bus to and from school. Mangan said she encourages families that live within a mile of the campus to walk, but there are a significant number that are brought to and from school in personal cars. If parents drive their students, the school encourages them to pick-up and drop-off behind the school building, but compliance is not mandatory.

Acknowledging that the project has been long-considered at the city level, Kathy Lincoln, a member of the traffic safety committee, said the involvement of the school district could be beneficial.

"If we can get some cooperation and investment from the school district, it might help the process along," Lincoln said.

SHELTER, continued from Page A1

Schneider also runs a youth volleyball program on the courts during the summer.

"When we ran our sand volleyball program last summer, we needed a place for the kids to place their things or cool down or if we get some rain," Schneider said.

While the parks board approved the grant request, it was not without dissent.

"The current state of Keizer parks is not great, I would be more inclined to support current projects than new ones because of the status quo budget," said Matt Lawyer, a member of the parks board.

Lawyer cited the results of the recent parks survey as one reason for his eventual "no" vote. The survey results showed residents heavily favored maintaining and upgrading existing facilities and services over building new ones.

Even as Lawyer took a stand against approving the grant, he apologized to Schneider for doing so.

"We know we can trust you, but at some point the city would have to be responsible for the maintenance of the picnic structure," said Donna Bradley, parks board member. "I think it's important that we look at that even though you are an exemplary volunteer."

Keizer Parks Supervisor Robert Johnson did not voice an opinion on the project, but said that a concrete and steel structure, like the one proposed, is one of the easiest amenities to maintain.

"It basically lasts forever and it's hard to vandalize. Even if Hans did go away, we wouldn't be putting in hundreds of additional hours," Johnson said.

Schneider said he and his family would pledge to take care of the structure for however long the city requested the service.

The board also discussed offsetting some of the money requested in the grant with system development charges, but Schneider already hoped to pursue those funds separately. System development charges are levied against new residential construction to pay for improvements in parks, but can only pay for 13.6 percent of any new project.

The two most vocal supporters of the project were board members Dylan Juran and Clint Holland.

"Our budget and the city says that if we don't spend this (matching grant) money we lose it. And we have a project that Hans is saying he will give us almost three times the value of the matching funds. It's not spending it to spend it, it's getting a return on investment," Juran said.

Holland called to mind recent discussions about improving a large field at Keizer Rapids park this summer. Despite having donated materials and labor lined up, the board nixed the project because it would have resulted in substantial time and resources to maintain once it was complete.

"When we turn things down when someone who is helping out, I can't even comprehend it. If we don't have the staff, go get some volunteers to do it," Holland said. "I would hate to see him not come back to here. Take the \$8,300 total out of the grant fund for this because we are going to get a lot in return," Holland said.

Lawyer, Bradley and Cat Gaynor voted against the grant approval.

Schneider hopes to have the pad for the shelter poured in early June and the installation completed by the end of June.

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SAFEWAY, continued from Page A1

Commissioner Garry Whalen said that even if the recommendation moved forward, fire district concerns would still be aired and addressed during the permitting process.

Keizer Fire Chief Jeff Cowan said he tried to line up a meeting between Safeway reps and the Keizer Fire Board, but the plans fell through.

"Once we open the door, it seems like Pandora's box. We want to collaborate, but without the additional information, we can't support it," Cowan said.

Cowan took issue with the traffic study associated with Safeway's proposal in particular.

"It's silent to the fact that the fire district is across the street. It doesn't address emergency response with regard to increased traffic and stacking at the entrance," he said.

Commissioner Hersch Sangster said the planning commission's role at that point was to move the rec-

ommendation forward or let it die.

"If it moves ahead, the city engineers will look at it and determine what will and won't work," Sangster said.

Commissioner Jerry Crane seemed to settle the issue by comparing the discussion to a dance.

"We are not the dancers, we are just allowing the dance to start. It would be in Safeway's best interest to find a way to accommodate the fire district. We're not making a decision on design or determining whether it will happen," Crane said.

Conversations about the convenience store were settled more quickly.

Most of the commissioners sided with the city staff against allowing the convenience store even though Safeway reps said it was an integral piece of the plan at a meeting in March.

"(Associated) sales don't do much for us overall, but if we don't offer it, we lose the fuel sale," said Chris Miles, a construction project manager for Albertsons, the company that acquired Safeway in 2014.

"We are not the dancers, we are just allowing the dance to start."

— Jerry Crane
Planning Commissioner

In the end, the recommendation was approved with a 4-2 vote. Commissioners Jim Jacks and Michael DeBlasi were the dissenters. Jacks would have preferred to continue the public hearing to allow the fire district to gather more information. DeBlasi was more concerned about what the change meant for the future development.

"I appreciate what staff has done trying to mitigate the effects, but good design doesn't mitigate the problems. It's like going into a gator pond, walking slowly or fast doesn't make a difference," DeBlasi said. "By allowing this use, we are locking it in for decades. It's not like there are no gas stations in Keizer."

crossword

Down to Earth

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CREATORS NEWS SERVICE

By Charles Preston

ACROSS

- 1 Drop heavily
- 5 Pesky tots
- 10 Cinematic dog
- 14 Tibetan monk
- 15 Shakespearean character
- 16 Iowa town
- 17 The terrible one
- 18 Reeds
- 19 Sicilian spouter
- 20 Garden denizen
- 22 Battens down
- 23 Emcee
- 24 Rain cats and dogs
- 25 Pillar
- 27 Result of 24 Across
- 31 Western lake
- 32 Turning point
- 33 The Altar
- 34 Yemeni seaport
- 35 Niçoise, for one
- 36 Beat it
- 37 ___ Mahal
- 38 Moonshiner's device
- 39 Semblance
- 40 Has a speech impediment
- 42 Certain moths
- 43 Kind of school

DOWN

- 44 Goriot, e.g.
- 45 Hector's father
- 47 Flighty
- 52 Culinary style
- 53 "___ pass Go"
- 54 Parisian pronoun
- 55 Prayer word
- 56 Dispatch boat
- 57 Verdi opus
- 58 Fourth planet from the sun
- 59 Passover ceremonial
- 60 Asian country
- 1 Ballet movement
- 2 Output from 19 Across
- 3 Gen. Bradley
- 4 Roman temple
- 5 Look at leisure
- 6 Player in a Capek drama
- 7 Cupid
- 8 Swarm
- 9 Distress signal
- 10 Fifth, for one
- 11 Unrestrained revelry
- 12 High, clear sound
- 13 What a shame!
- 21 ___ in one
- 22 Ilk
- 24 Goad
- 25 Egyptian bigwig
- 26 Mozart's 41st symphony
- 27 Money boxes
- 28 Ellipse
- 29 Lock
- 30 Vic's mate
- 31 Uses a shuttle
- 32 Poker holding
- 35 One of Buchan's 39
- 36 Lugubrious
- 38 Check
- 39 Preceptor
- 41 Dressy dress features
- 42 University speaker
- 44 Some writing
- 45 Baby buggy
- 46 City in Italia
- 47 Relocation
- 48 Geraint's beloved
- 49 Mother of Romulus and Remus
- 50 Moro
- 51 Meadows
- 53 ___ Rheingold

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