

COSTCO,

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said. "It's also a good idea to let Costco know that somebody still loves them and wants them."

By consensus, the council agreed to draft a letter to Costco expressing support.

"I think that it's an exceptionally good idea to provide good feedback to that

business. Costco has a great outlook in terms of how they treat employees and treat their customers," said Councilor Bruce Anderson.

At a Salem City Council meeting Dec. 10, the group mixed plans for Costco to move from its current location off Hawthorne Avenue to a new space on Kuebler. Neighbors of the planned shopping center turned out en masse to express their displeasure with the

proposal. According to *Salem Reporter*, opponents couched their dissent in the traffic impacts to the surrounding area and said a Costco was not in line with original proposals for the space. The council voted against allowing the Costco move 5-3, but the decision will likely end up being appealed to the state's land use authorities.

There is no immediately-apparent space where Costco could move in Keizer's current boundaries. The plans submitted to the Salem City Council called for a 166,000-square-foot store and a 30-pump gas station. Still, Thompson said a potential move could be

a consideration as Keizer considers growing its Urban Growth Boundary (UGB).

Keizer Development Director Nate Brown said that would still be a stretch.

"We would have to document a specific land need for retail, but our current need is only minor. [Changing the UGB] is all tied to the land need and how is it justified," Brown said.

Brown said a more likely space would be across I-5 from

Keizer Station, but that land is also controlled by Salem and comes with significant floodway and floodplain issues.

Still, Brown said he would be happy to reach out to Costco's development team and "tell them what we've got."

Mayor Cathy Clark said this didn't mean Keizer would be willing to bend over backward to bring the retail giant to the city.

"We're not giving away the store, that's not how we operate.


We don't pay to have businesses come here. We are the gift that keeps on giving with a \$2.08 tax rate," Clark said.

Attracting Costco to Keizer already has one high-profile, Keizer-minded proponent in Oregon Rep. Bill Post.

"I am working behind the scenes with city, chamber and other officials to see what we can do to help Costco find Keizer," Post wrote on social media after hearing news of Salem's decision.

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PARKS,

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address it as a priority before year three," Bradley said.

Lawyer suggested postponing some of the tree work or truck replacement to make room for lighting in Bair Park.

Johnson said the replacement of the truck had already been put off a year to provide for additional improvements this year.

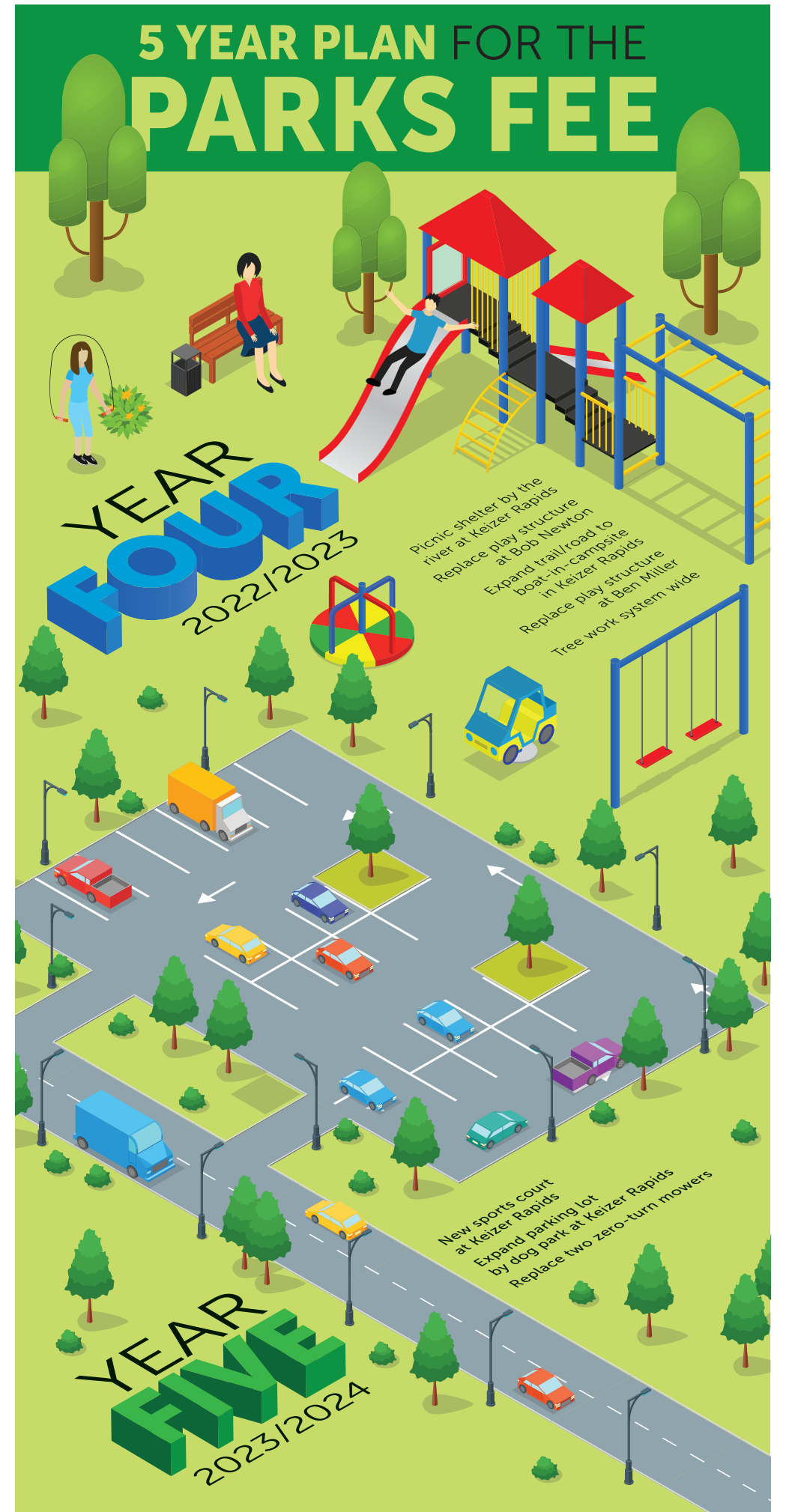
Johnson did make one change to the draft schedule after the meeting at the request of City Councilor Roland Herrera, who is council liaison to the group. Herrera, who lives near Country Glen Park, said the south end of the park was becoming a problem area and asked that additional lighting be installed. Johnson added to the third year to coincide with the Bair Park lighting, for now.

Board member Wayne Frey asked about a second-year project, the demolition of a house on the Keizer Rapids Park (KRP) property. The house is a remnant from the purchase of property that became KRP, but it is in its last days.

"Remodeling the house is probably not the most effective at this point. We would like to remove the house and then have a conversation about what it could become as support to the amphitheater or other large events," Johnson said.

In the interim, the space house would be replaced with a gravel pad for food trucks to use during large events.

5 YEAR PLAN FOR THE PARKS FEE



YEAR FOUR 2022/2023

- Picnic shelter by the river at Keizer Rapids
- Replace play structure at Bob Newton
- Expand trail/road to boat-in composite in Keizer Rapids
- Replace play structure at Ben Miller
- Tree work system wide

YEAR FIVE 2023/2024

- New sports court at Keizer Rapids
- Expand parking lot by dog park at Keizer Rapids
- Replace two zero-turn mowers

KEIZERTIMES/Candace Johnson



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