

Hoop schemes

B-ball standards will face tighter scrutiny

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

The Keizer City Council voted to approve two ordinances that will have a limiting effect on when and where basketball hoops can be placed around the city.

Under two new ordinances approved by the council at its meeting Tuesday, Sept. 3, basketball hoops will no longer be allowed on sidewalks at all. Additionally, placing them in local streets will only be allowed when owners can provide evidence of "active use."

The changes also require reflectors or reflective tape on both sides of basketball standards and prohibits placement entirely on streets where cars cannot park legally.

Outcry was swift and oppositional when *Keizertimes* posted the plan on social media last week, but that did not turn into dissent in council chambers. Only Keizer resident Jonathan Thompson spoke to the council seeking more discussion before taking action.

"I'm not without empathy. I think it deserves a much larger conversation," Thompson said. "When these standards are filled with sand and water they are not portable and they are heavy without it. I like that it is complaint-driven, but I challenge us to find a safe harbor."

Thompson said he would be more amenable to changing the types of hoops allowed and suggested ones that bolted in directly to the sidewalk, allowing greater space for pedestrians.

The first ordinance the council tackled prohibits any sidewalk obstructions aside



File Basketball hoops will no longer be permitted on sidewalks and will face stricter guidelines for placement in roadways.

from recreational vehicle electrical cords running across sidewalks, which also must be placed under a strip protector or use cones "or other devices" to warn sidewalk users.

During discussion of the proposal, Councilor Kim Freeman said walking her own neighborhood is difficult with obstructions of various kinds blocking access.

"If you have a kid walking alone or someone in a wheelchair, it's an additional barrier," Freeman said.

Community Development Director Nate Brown noted that hoops are only one type of obstruction and the ordinance applies to any obstruction — vegetation to furniture.

Councilor Dan Kohler said he felt conflicted about the basket ban.

"I see kids enjoying basketball hoops and I have friends in wheelchairs," he said.

Mayor Cathy Clark appeared to be the most unswayed, but she was willing to push for more work on the issue of basketball hoops. Clark suggested tasking the Keizer Traffic Safety, Bikeways and Pedestrian (TBP) Committee with developing a "menu" of ADA-compliant alternatives

to placing sporting equipment on or near sidewalks.

The sidewalk obstruction ordinance ended up passing with a 5-1 vote. Reid opposed, Councilor Roland Herrera was absent.

Next, the council took up the issue of placing basketball hoops on local streets. The proposed ordinance would have prohibited placing basketball standard in the streets unless they were actively in use and never between the hours of 10 p.m. and 7 a.m.

The notion of defining active use so stringently and assigning prohibited hours did not sit well with Reid who proposed leaving the term "active use" up to interpretation and removing the stipulation of prohibited hours.

"I would rather leave active use up to interpretation so we don't set ourselves up for a lot more enforcement than we bargain for," Reid said. A friendly amendment to the proposed ordinance was accepted and the measure passed unanimously, but the council plans to ask the TBP committee to come up with more defined parameters for the term "active use."

When Reid asked Thompson what he would envision as a reasonable "active use" standard, Thompson replied used within the previous 15 days.

Failure to reasonably comply could result in a \$500 fine, but the intent of the new ordinances is to give the city's code enforcement officer additional arrows in his quiver when seeking to handle nuisance complaints.

Caretaker nixed at Keizer Rapids

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

Despite calls to maintain a park host program at Keizer Rapids Park (KRP), the Keizer City Council opted instead to rent out a home in the park at its meeting Tuesday, Sept. 3.

Potential legal entanglements decided the issue according to a staff memo from Keizer City Attorney Shannon Johnson.

Johnson had the city's labor attorney, Kathy Peck, review the possibilities of establishing an official park host program and returned with enough information to dissuade the council from pursuing it.

Peck's assessment was that both state and federal law might not look kindly upon listing the position as a volunteer in exchange for something as potentially valuable as housing.

"Although volunteers are allowed some nominal expenses and still remain truly volunteer, the housing would appear to be compensation, could cause some risks," Johnson wrote.

An argument could also be made that the position would be covered by the collective bargaining agreement with city workers.

"If a volunteer later brought a claim, the City could be liable for up to three years

wages/overtime and attorney fees, plus significant penalties," Johnson wrote.

A volunteer cannot waive such claims even under the provisions of a contract and no insurance will cover the

potential liability, Peck reported. Instead of maintaining the property as a caretaker home, it will be converted to a rental property.

Johnson said City Manager Chris Eppley is working with other city staff and the police department to address safety concerns raised by residents when the caretaker program was originally slated for nixing earlier this year.

"We also looked at having a regular park employee in that house but the downside was too much to handle," Johnson said.

Eppley added that there is an exemption in the law for designated campground hosts, but the only camping in KRP — aside from occasional special events — is boat-in camping.

Councilor Laura Reid made certain to note that a considerable amount of time was expended on the matter after residents brought concerns forward.

"It's not something that we've taken lightly," Reid said.

EARTHLINK INTERNET
HIGH SPEED INTERNET

Finally, high-speed internet without spending big bucks!

Get Connected for as low as 14.95/mo.	Get Connected for as low as 49.99/mo.	CONTACT YOUR LOCAL AUTHORIZED RETAILER
HyperLink™ High-Speed Internet	Satellite Internet	855-977-9436

Authorized Dealer

Dental Insurance
Physicians Mutual Insurance Company

This is real dental insurance from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company that helps pay for over 350 procedures — cleanings, fillings, crowns, even dentures.

- No annual maximum, no deductible
- See any dentist you want — including your own
- Over 50? Coverage as low as \$1 per day

Call now to get this **FREE** Information Kit
1-877-599-0125 dental50plus.com/25

PRE-PLANNING YOUR FINAL ARRANGEMENTS IS A GIFT ONLY YOU CAN GIVE YOUR LOVED ONES.

CALL TODAY!

RESTALLAWN MEMORY GARDENS & RESTALLAWN FUNERAL HOME
Salem, OR 97304
503-585-1373
www.restellawnfh.com

FARNSTROM MORTUARY
Independence, OR 97351
503-838-1414
www.farnstrommortuary.com

KEIZER FUNERAL CHAPEL
Keizer, OR 97303
503-393-7037
www.keizerchapel.com

Secure your identity — shred your documents

Join us for a **free** community Shred Day and food drive.

Saturday, Sept. 21
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Volcanoes Stadium Parking Lot
6700 Field of Dreams Way NE, Keizer, OR 97303

Secure, convenient shredding
Bring up to three boxes of outdated documents to our Shred Day for hassle-free, no-cost shredding. Just drive up and drop off your documents at the Volcanoes Stadium Parking Lot from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., September 21. Open to the community.

What to bring
Old checks, charge receipts, credit applications, insurance forms, physician statements, monthly statements (financial and utility) and more.

Bring a nonperishable food item to donate to the Marion-Polk Food Share.

Visit oregonstatecu.com/shred-days for more information.

Get your prescription even if you forget your wallet.

\$0 copays on select prescription drugs: It's on the list of ways we put members first.

It'd take an entire book to list the ways we put members first. As it happens, we only have room in this ad for one. If you have a PacificSource health plan, you can get select preventive prescription drugs without a copay. Making for a transaction that's entirely wallet-optional.

Why not let us put you first, too?
PacificSourceMembersFirst.com • 877-281-2124

Members first |