

Seaside center reaches its fund goals

Community building to get upgrades

By R.J. MARX
The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — The city's Bob Chisholm Community Center moved closer to renovation, meeting funding goals for the three-stage building refresh.

Construction could begin in the fall.

"Several years ago, we had a dream," Lou Neubecker, chairman of the Community Center and Senior Commission, told the City Council Monday.

Now, the dream is a reality, he said.

Through fundraising efforts, the commission raised more than \$51,000. "Since the original project was estimated at \$175,000 combined with the city's project budget of \$200,000, we have enough to start the funds and start going out for bids," Neubecker said.

Honoring volunteer

The Bob Chisholm Community Center at 1225 Avenue A was originally property of the Catholic Church before acquisition of the building by the city as a community rental space.

In the mid-1990s, under the direction of then-Public Works Director Chisholm, the building underwent a major



Submitted Drawing

Rendering of proposed upgrade at the community center.

renovation, adding a front office and two large meeting rooms to the north end of the building. The main hall was converted from a gymnasium into a large gathering space.

Chisholm, a volunteer firefighter, died in 1997 attempting to save a man drowning in the surf just off the beach. The building was subsequently named in his honor.

The project

The refresh project was conceived in 2015 by the city and the Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District. A pledge drive launched last spring.

In the first week of May, the commission got approval from the city to meet with RESOLVE Architecture and Planning, the firm that initially designed the renovation, and start preparing the bid process to select a

general contractor.

Refurbishing the main hall is the first of three phases.

"Window treatments, the flooring, wall covering, and lighting are the main parts of it," Darren Gooch, marketing and information technology manager for the district, said after the meeting. "But all of that is going to work together to dampen the sound a little bit and put it in a little better acoustic environment. Right now if you have a hearing aid, you can't hear what's going on."

Renovations to the center's entryway and the classrooms will follow.

Gooch said the commission will now solicit architects for bids, which will then be presented to the City Council for review.

"Hopefully we could get started as soon as October," Gooch said.

Commission name change

Along with seeking approval to launch the bid process, Neubecker asked city councilors to consider a formal name change for the commission.

Members want to change the commission's name to the Bob Chisholm Community Center Commission, dropping the word "senior" in order to encourage more diverse audiences.

"The reason we're asking for the 'senior' to be dropped is a lot of people are saying, 'Well, I don't want to hold it (an event) at the senior center,'" Neubecker said.

Commissioners have considered the change for a couple of years, Gooch said. "We serve a very broad group," he said. "The center already serves senior lunches during the day. In the afternoon and evening, we have kids from the preschool come over. It's not just an exclusively senior population — it's a diverse population."

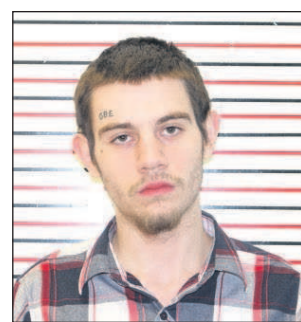
Mayor Jay Barber said the commission name change would be considered at the July 18 council work session.

"I know you are investing a lot of great resources to make the facility more attractive, and you want it to be seen as something more than a senior center," Barber said. "But we don't want the seniors to feel like we're kicking them out either. So it's a bit of a tight-rope walk."

Clatskanie man gets sentenced to five years for sexual corruption

Victims were in Clatsop County

By JACK HEFFERNAN
The Daily Astorian



Theron Joseph Manley

A Clatskanie man will serve up to five years in prison for online sexual corruption of three girls in Clatsop County.

Theron Joseph Manley, 19, was sentenced June 30 after reaching a plea agreement with the Clatsop County District Attorney's Office. He pleaded guilty to three counts of first-degree online sexual corruption of a child, two counts of luring a minor and one count of third-degree sodomy. If he demonstrates good behavior in prison, his sentence could be shortened to four years.

He originally faced 24 charges that also included third-degree rape, third-degree sexual abuse, attempting to use a child in a display of sexually explicit conduct, unlawful delivery of marijuana within 1,000 feet of a school and attempt to commit a Class A felony. All of the incidents for which he was charged allegedly took place in October.

Manley allegedly contacted several girls on Facebook and received responses from at least the three girls

who live in Clatsop County. He sent sexually explicit messages to all three of the girls and had sexual intercourse with at least one of them. Two of the girls were 14 years old at the time while another was 15 years old.

Soon after the incidents, a mother of one of the teenagers found requests for nude images from Manley on her Facebook profile, leading to an investigation by the Clatsop County Sheriff's Office. In January, Manley was arrested while attending a separate court case at the Pacific County Courthouse in South Bend, Washington.

As teenagers become more savvy with social media applications, parents are having a harder time monitoring the safety of their children, Deputy District Attorney Dawn Buzzard said. "This is the kind of issue that we're going to see more and more," she said.

Warrenton chooses Portland firm for its legal counsel

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — Warrenton has selected a Portland firm for legal advice.

Former City Attorney Hal Snow, of Snow & Snow in Astoria, died in December. City Manager Linda Engbretson said the city received two responses to a request for proposals for Snow's replacement, one from a Portland firm the city has worked with before and the second from a Seaside firm.

The commissioners voted to go with staff's recommendation, choosing Beery Elsner & Hammond from Portland. The firm employs eight attorneys, specializing in everything from land use law to labor law, Engbretson said.

"I think we're getting a lot for the price of one," she said.

Mayor Henry Balensifer said the city faces some "dicey and complicated issues," referencing the contentious Eighth Street Dam and upcoming contracts with Pacific Coast Seafood as the company begins its return to Warrenton following a fire that destroyed a processing facility in 2013.

"It would be better to hire a known best," Balensifer concluded.

In other business:
• The City Commission declared a property off Alternate U.S. Highway 101 a nuisance. The property owner is dead and the property itself is being foreclosed on, staff reported.

The city is working with several other properties but there are no other declared nuisance properties at this time. The commissioners discussed other properties for consideration. Balensifer suggested holding a work session at a future meeting to discuss the policy.

• The commission held a hearing on a rezoning request by Michael Johnson for approximately 1.91 acres of undeveloped property he owns on the west side of S.W. Juniper Avenue.

Johnson asked that the property be rezoned from Residential Growth Management/Intermediate Density Residential to Medium Density Residential.

The city received some comments from neighbors concerned Johnson might build a duplex on the site, a use not allowed under the current zoning but which would be allowed under the new zoning. Jennifer Bunch of Wickiup

Consulting LLC, representing Johnson, said there were no concrete plans at this time to develop the property, but that the rezoning would make it consistent with neighboring properties.

No one commented against the project during the public hearing and the commission held a first reading of the ordinance approving Johnson's application.

Project Updates

The Oregon Department of Transportation invites you to provide input on amendments to projects in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program.

On the 1st and 16th of each month, ODOT will post for review changes made in the previous 15 days to projects in the STIP; we invite you to check in regularly and provide comments.

Please visit:
www.oregon.gov/ODOT/TD/STIP/Pages/STIPDocs.aspx
(under the heading "STIP Amendments for Public Review").

Send comments to:
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