

Community Development Plan begins with first phase assessment

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

Cascadia Partnership owner Rick Foster has reviewed Grand Ronde community development plans dating back to 1985's Reservation plan.

He has found some common threads over those 33 years.

Sustainable economic development, services for Elders and a need for housing to accommodate Tribal members who want to return to Grand Ronde are several of the common themes throughout the myriad plans.

Finding those themes and creating a game plan for the Tribe's future development of the Grand Ronde community are part of Foster's contracted work for the Tribe as the first phase of the Community Development Plan gets underway.

"What Phase One is it's essentially doing all of the foundational work that will eventually lead to the actual development of the plan," Foster said from his office in Independence.

The foundational work will include reviewing recordings of community meetings held in the spring when members of the Tribe provided input about area needs.

From there, Foster said, he will create a baseline assessment of where the Tribe has been, compile demographic research and examine key issues that need to be addressed.

"What I am going to try and do in this piece is take all of the feedback that the Tribe has already gotten on what is of interest and what is needed by Tribal members and put it into some kind of contextual framework that says, 'OK, this is how we can look at it in a plan so it's not just a list.'"

For instance, Foster said, if the goal is more housing, how does that specific goal affect the greater community as a whole, such as educational services and infrastructure needs.

The Phase One part of the Community Development Plan is scheduled to be completed by early February.

"Phase One is going to impact (Tribal members) because one of the deliverables is to come up with that scope of work that will have

the community engagement strategy that is going to be undertaken in Phase Two," Foster said. "Part of this phase is really going to lay out the process that will ensure the plan is reflective of the needs, wishes and desires of Tribal members."

If done right, Foster added, a Community Development Plan guides the priorities on where to make investments in developing a community.

"What this plan would ultimately do is provide a pathway so that we're constantly moving forward in terms of meeting those goals enunciated by Tribal members," Foster said.

Eventually, an update meeting will be held to keep Tribal members in the loop and provide an opportunity for input on the plan's development.

Tribal Planning Department Director Rick George said that the second phase of creating a Community Development Plan will be solicited in February.

"Now into its fourth decade after Restoration, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde has made the policy decision to invest in strategic planning to chart the future of the community of Grand Ronde and the Tribe's Reservation," George said. "This decision is important and far reaching as it signifies council's commitment to inclusion of the Tribe's membership in determining the goals for growth, management and jurisdiction of the community and Reservation homeland."

"Previous surveys of the membership and recent community meetings have documented needs for new housing developments and expansion of Tribal hunting and fishing. Council's decision to implement a new Community Development planning initiative demonstrates the Tribe's sophistication in governance and exemplifies its commitment to being a good neighbor with adjoining municipalities and local governments."

"The most interesting thing about this process is it continues the discussion of what is it that you want your community to be," Foster said. ■



2013 – The Grand Ronde Tribe hosted the best attended Native rehabilitation conference in Portland. The event was hosted in conjunction with four other Oregon Tribes that have vocational rehabilitation programs. "This conference is a good place



2013

File photo

for networking between Native American administrators and their state partners, as well as a place to discuss best practices, legislation and learning how to write a vocational rehabilitation plan," said Grand Ronde Tribal member Leslie Riggs, the Tribe's VR/477 Employment and Training supervisor.

2008 – New Department of Motor Vehicles rules allowed Tribal members to use their Tribal identification cards to retain, renew or replace a driver's license or state-issued identification cards. This meant Tribal members could now stop in at a state DMV office and use their Tribal ID card instead of having to present a birth certificate or passport. The change was implemented after Gov. Ted Kulongoski issued an executive order earlier in the year, requiring the state DMV follow criteria established by the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators regarding acceptable forms of identification to obtain a driver's license.

2003 – Thirty-nine veterans were presented with a Warriors Medal of Valor, designed by Marine Corps veteran Marshall Tall Eagle. The medal was created to honor all veterans, including members of local police and fire departments. Tall Eagle eventually wanted to present the medal to every Tribal veteran on every Reservation in the United States.

1998 – Hundreds flocked to the grand opening of the Tribe's Governance Center. Elders, Tribal Council members and guests gathered in the main ceremonial area of the 40,000-square-foot structure to honor what represented a monument to Tribal achievements since Restoration 15 years earlier. "I think it's fantastic. I never dreamed we would come this far," Tribal Council member Val Grout said. "I can remember going with my mom to the old building when they canned foods in the kitchen and there was a back room where Tribal Elders used to quilt. ... If they could see this now."

1993 – The Tribe prepared to celebrate its 10th anniversary of Restoration by looking back on accomplishments that had taken place during the previous decade. These included providing an abundance of human, financial and educational services to its membership. "People are beginning to realize this is a Tribe rooted in tradition, but its members are not afraid to consider the future of their children and Elders," an article stated. Two years before, the Community Center was completed, which housed the dental clinic, Elders' mealsite and General Council meetings. Other uses included Friday night bingo, conferences, family reunions and the youth Halloween party.

1988 – The Tribe received several grants in the areas of administration, health and social services. The Health Department received a grant to conduct a feasibility study on establishing a health clinic in the Grand Ronde area to include developing a funding and implementation plan. The feasibility study would determine what actions and resources were necessary for management and planning of the clinic. It also would include a market analysis based on the demographics and medical resources. "We know there is a need for a clinic," Health Director Cheryle A. Kennedy said. "There should be a physician for every 10,000 people, but the area lacks that ratio."

Yesteryears is a look back at Tribal history in five-year increments through the pages of Smoke Signals.

Enrollment Ordinance open for comment

The Tribal Council is considering amendments to the Enrollment Ordinance. The proposed amendments were given a First Reading at the Nov. 7, 2018, Tribal Council meeting.

The proposed amendments replace all references to the Enrollment Board with the Enrollment Committee; clearly define the role of the Enrollment Committee and details under what conditions special meetings may be called; establish an application deadline for quarterly applications; and may also include minor technical (i.e., formatting, typographical, housekeeping) modifications.

The proposed amendments do not modify or impact enrollment requirements.

Tribal Council invites comments on the proposed amendments to the Enrollment Ordinance. For a copy of the proposed amendments, please contact the Tribal Attorney's Office at 503-879-4664. Please send your comments to the Tribal Attorney's Office, 9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, Oregon 97347 or by e-mail to legal@grandronde.org.

Comments must be received by Dec. 15, 2018. ■

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for more information please call
503-623-8175 Ext 2297