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softball, but now are adequately equipped to handle a more diverse group attending sporting events. "There are actually three restrooms in this facility, along with storage, so there is a place to properly store a barbecue grill and cooktop," said Miller. "It can provide a true concession facility. But really, we wanted to offer something that was more robust and could be utilized by anybody in the community."

The Miller Park Concession Stand upgrade cost a total of \$360,000 with grant funds contributing \$216,000 and matching funds of \$144,000.

Later in the meeting, Mayor Joe Henry shared a little of the recent history of the council's decision a

few years ago to improve Florence's city park system.

"I would invite you to look back five years and the amount of money we had in our budget — we had less than \$10,000 in our budget, total — and no personnel dedicated to parks at that point," said Henry. "So, we have made tremendous strides with our parks and it just made me feel good looking at all of those parks and how much they have improved in the last few years."

The review of the park upgrades also focused on a new park activity that will add to the list of recreational activities available to residents and visitors — disc golf.

The Munsel Greenway Disc Golf Course will become a reality, with funding now secured for

the project. The growing popularity of disc golf is behind the effort to provide a professional-level course, which will be open to the public and would eventually host nationally sanctioned tournaments.

The estimated completion date for the Munsel Greenway Disc Golf Park is summer 2021.

Miller also provided updates on the renovations at the Singing Pines Dog Park and Rolling Dunes Park, located on the corner of Siano Loop and 35th Street.

The city's newest park, The Exploding Whale Park, which opened in May 2019, was built using funds from the Land and Water Conservation Fund and a Local Government Grant totaling \$87,525. Miller reported the use of the park is growing and

attracting visitors from out of town.

FarleyCampbell next provided a housing update to the committee. While housing projects are continuing to increase, the need for additional residential housing remains a high priority for the city. She provided materials showing that there were 58 housing unit permits issued in 2019. That has equaled a slight decline so far in 2020, with a drop to 45 issued permits so far.

In addition, FarleyCampbell noted that there were a number of additional permit applications pending, most notably the multi-unit parcel on the corner of 35th Street and Rhododendron Drive with a potential for 380 units.

Later, Weese, the staff facilitator for the meet-

ing, reviewed the need for the committee to determine the priorities which they collectively felt needed to be addressed. Committee members Bill Prosser and Dan Lofy offered brief suggestions of items they would like to see discussed at a future work session.

Lofy wanted to formulate a plan which included providing work training to local homeless individuals. Prosser suggested a new approach to real-world skill training was needed.

"My kind of focus is really the area of 'what can we do to improve the educational resources available to the people that live here,'" Prosser said. "How can we really

take kids from the high school here and transition them to living wage kind of job situations? And then, how can we act as partner with the business community to facilitate the infrastructure to allow that kind of growth to happen?"

As the meeting closed, Weese pointed towards the Nov. 16 work session, scheduled with the Florence City Council, as an opportunity to discuss their thoughts with councilors.

The work session will begin the process of creating a detailed city work plan for the next biennium.

The next CEDC meeting is scheduled for Oct. 15, beginning at 3:45 p.m.

FLORENCE from page 1A

According to the charter, there is no mechanism to fill a "vacancy" with an election, unless a seated city councilor resigns to run for the position of Mayor, as outlined in Section 14.4.

In this case, the vacancy would be filled using the provisions in City Charter 28, which does not require the council to present the vacancy as a question to the voters.

As per the charter, the council could choose to leave the seat vacant until December 2022, eventually being filled by a successful candidate in the November 2022 election.

Or, the council could fill the vacancy under Section 28 of the City Charter for the remainder of the term.

In either case, the position will return to a vote on the November 2022 ballot.

Following a relatively brief discussion, the three councilors decided to postpone any final decision on the specific details of the application and interview process until after this November's election.

Preisler, who initially suggested the idea, was quickly joined by Woodbury and Henry, with the trio agreeing to postpone a decision on selecting a replacement for Prociw until January, when as many as three new members of the city council could be seated.

The regularly scheduled city council meeting held later that evening began with a public comment provided by resident Mike Allen, a local cli-

mate activist who continues to urge the council to acknowledge and act on some type of official climate change position.

Allen repeated a request he made Sept. 15 to the Environmental Management Advisory Committee (EMAC), forwarding a request from Lane County to participate in an online climate survey. The results of the survey will contribute to the county's overall strategy to address climate issues.

The EMAC response to Allen was mixed, with his request openly rejected by some members of the committee while embraced by others.

Following public comment, the first action item of Monday night's council meeting was the request approval of Resolution No. 13, Series 2020, by City Manager Erin Reynolds, who has recently returned from maternity leave.

The resolution, which passed unanimously, renewed the State of Emergency Declaration currently in place in Florence, implemented at the order of Oregon Gov. Kate Brown in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The second action item was also related to COVID, but dealt with the employment and financial ramifications of the pandemic. The resolution provides for \$40,000 in funding to be distributed to residents who have been negatively impacted by the pandemic.

Administrative Services Director Anne Baker walked the council through the specifics of the proposal and highlighted the requirements attached to the CARES

Act by Congress.

"This would be for anybody that has been impacted by COVID-19, such as a job loss, reduced work hours, illness in the family, where they have to stay quarantined or have to stay home with kids if they are not in school," Baker said. "You must be a resident and participate in government programs or your household average median income is at 80 percent or less for the last 30 days."

Baker also stated that, due to restrictions placed by Congress on how the monies allocated would be spent, a third party — in this instance Siuslaw Outreach Services — will administer the program.

People can go to florence.org for more information on COVID-19 assistance.

Additionally, Baker provided the council with other COVID-19 related information which shows the city was awarded \$316,000 in funding through the CARES Act and has received 100 percent reimbursement on COVID-related expenses so far. The city expects to receive 100 percent reimbursement on expenses through Dec. 31.

Resolution No. 24, 2020, a utility relief program, was soon passed unanimously as was Resolution No. 25, Series 2020, submitted and presented by Public Works Director Mike Miller, for authorization to purchase

an Aerzen Delta Hybrid Screw Blower Package. After a detailed presentation thoroughly explaining the process used by the Hybrid Screw Blower in moving and processing sewage waste, the expenditure was approved.

Consent agenda items included an authorization of the city manager to enter into an agreement with the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) for the Highway 101 to Munsel Lake Road curb project.

Committee reports were entered into the record and councilor reports were minimal, but councilor Greene wanted to discuss the next step in communicating with committees and commissions, saying he felt overall guidance from the council was lacking. He also once again voiced his frustration with the council's decision in 2019 to cut funding for public art through Florence Urban renewal Agency.

In his remarks, Henry recapped the successful effort's made by Shannon Graham to collect funds for a book giveaway at Siuslaw Elementary School, which distributed nearly 300 bags of books to area students.

The next Florence City Council meeting is scheduled for Oct. 5, in a virtual meeting beginning at 5:30 p.m. For more information, visit ci.florence.or.us.

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