

# BOND

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If a replacement of Harrison is the widely agreed-upon entrée of the prospective bond, then the committee of stakeholders has before it a list of equally worthy à la carte side dishes, which were also discussed at Tuesday's meeting.

The meeting began with a tour of the Warren H. Daugherty Aquatics Center, one of higher-priority issues for the District.

Originally built as an outdoor facility in 1955, the pool was covered 10 years later and began hosting school swimming lessons. Prior to that time, the area — with its many waterways — saw a high rate of youth drowning. But since then, not one South Lane student who has gone through the program has drowned.

The pool currently works with several facility issues: the drains in both locker rooms regularly back up; the women's locker room is not ADA compliant, and the mens locker room only meets those standards because there are no stalls around the toilets; the boiler is also constantly threatening to fail, and with that would come a \$75,000 repair bill.

Additionally, the pool lags as a competitive facility. With a length of 33 yards, it is significantly longer than standard 25-meter pools, and because of that, many teams decline invitations to compete there.

The most recent estimate for a renovation, which would effectively replace everything except the structure, is \$2.8



A network of pipes populates the bowels of the Warren H. Daugherty Aquatic Center.

photo by Jon Stinnett

million.

In the mid 2000s, several renderings were produced for a new pool, which would be located in the northwest quadrant of the high school's campus. These designs offer a wide range of features and amenities, and the associated cost estimates for those projects span from \$6.7 million to \$15.1 million.

However, the operational costs of the pool are significant. The city currently contributes \$50,000 per year, which accounts for one-third of the pool's annual

budget. But the City has not yet determined if it will continue with its support.

"What we offer as far as programming precedes the design of a new or remodeled pool," said pool manager Carrie McCasline. "We need to maximize revenue and reduce costs where we can."

McCasline mentioned a therapy pool and a fitness room as two amenities that could bring in the most outside dollars. And some committee members queried about a long-term partnership with the

City.

Other items that were discussed at Tuesday's meeting included the completion of the high school's baseball field or pursuing a community recreation complex, which would add three turf athletic fields to the high school's facilities; deferred maintenance projects, such as new roofs at Lincoln and Bohemia; a new auditorium/theatre at CGHS; additional classroom modulars; a turf athletic field at Lincoln and upgrades to computer hardware and network connectivity and safety and security measures throughout the district.

While it is unlikely that all of the projects are attainable through the bond measure — at least at their full-priced options — the bond committee was tasked with determining which, if any, would add the most value to the proposal.

However, before that question is answered, the committee must first decide on the amount of the bond levy. They could pursue a 20-year, \$23.2 million bond levy or a 25-year, \$29.8 million bond levy — neither of which would increase local tax rates.

The difference between the two options is an additional \$6.6 million to address projects beyond a new elementary school.

At their next meeting on April 8, committee members will offer recommendations between the two bonds and prioritize the list of projects.

# CHAPEL

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able to keep up Sunset Hills' operations.

Smith-Lund-Mills had already been digging graves at Sunset Hills for about a year, Lund said, and he said that those who had purchased prepaid funeral services through Sunset Hills were in danger of not being able to access those services.

"Sunset Hills is a fixture in the Eugene community, and it needed to be saved," Lund said. "We felt like our company could be part of the solution and are pleased to be helping."

In the process of filling in, the Lunds say they began to realize what kind of opportunity the business offered.

"We feel like Sunset Hills

has so much to offer the community," said Christina Lund, Marc's wife and co-owner, via a recent release. "The funeral home and crematorium, having been recently constructed in 2009, feature a modern facility to hold memorial services, funerals and receptions, with vaulted ceilings, large windows and a warm, comfortable northwest feel."

"Sunset Hills is a natural fit with our existing businesses," Marc Lund said. "We intend to operate Sunset Hills in much the same way we do at our other locations, with an emphasis on providing personalized service options to the community, coupled with caring, professional staff to assist families."

The Lunds say they'll definitely be making changes in the operations at Sunset Hills and that the acquisition will provide "operational synergies" with the infrastructure of a functioning business already in place. In the process of acquainting themselves with the community in South Eugene served by Sunset Hills, they say they've also come to appreciate practices such as "green" burials that can also be offered in Cottage Grove.

Marc Lund is a second-generation funeral practitioner who followed in his father, Douglas Lund's, footsteps. He has been with the company for 20 years, and he and his wife both stressed that Cottage Grove remains their headquarters.

"It is very important that our families in South Lane County know that we are not leaving Cottage Grove in any way,"

Christina Lund said. "We are very committed to the community and funeral service."

# SUIT

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Yarnall told the Eugene Register-Guard via email last week that Wendy Cooper filed the lawsuit to "ensure that what happened to her son Nathan does not happen to anyone else," adding that she hoped the City would choose to adequately staff the jail and provide proper training to its staff.

Yarnall said funding at the jail was "another major issue" in the incident, adding that the budget for the jail's operations was \$25,750 for the year that Cooper was incarcerated there. In a denial of a motion for summary judgment filed by the City's attorneys last July, Judge Thomas Coffin stated that a jury could find that "the lack of a full-time employee at the jail to supervise and monitor inmates contributed to Cooper's death."

On Monday, City Manager Richard Meyers said the City's insurance company will coordinate settlement payments. He said the incident has not prompted the City to alter policies or

procedures but added that such changes may yet occur.

"We haven't made any changes yet," Meyers said. "We're going to meet with our attorneys and see what can be done. We're constantly changing to match new technologies, and there may be some things we could do that could make a significant difference with regard to monitoring and holding people accountable."

Meyers called Cooper's death a "tragedy on a whole mess of scales."

"Here's somebody who was 24 years old, and his life was ruined," he said. "It was ruined because of drugs."

Meyers said that, had Cooper faced felony drug charges, he would likely have had access to "other programs and treatment options" available through either Lane County or the state prison system. Meyers said the City instead frequently charges offenders with misdemeanors in an attempt to hold them accountable locally, as the City

does not believe the Lane County Jail will do so.

"The whole system is just not working, and nobody wants to pay to fix it," he said.

Police Chief Mike Grover said Monday that the City's policies are "inspected periodically by the state department of corrections," and that CGPD has passed those inspections. Grover said his department is "seeing more and more" that "heroin is the drug of choice in Cottage Grove now."

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