

PLANNING

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to smell like marijuana.”
 Bruce Stewart, one of the prime figures behind Bohemia Park, worried that “pretty soon, Cottage Grove is going to be the dope capitol of the state.” He added that he worried about securing donations to finish Bohemia Park with the processing facility nearby.
 Darlene Burbach said she accepted the legalization of marijuana but would prefer that such businesses be located on the outskirts of town.
 McConnell countered concerns by saying that she and her husband have children and the opportunity to improve the lot near the park was exciting to them. She said the Oregon Liquor Control Commission places strong

controls on the filtering of sound and odors at such facilities. She likened the machine used in the carbon dioxide process to an air compressor and said it makes a similar sound.
 The Planning Commission added conditions to its eventual approval, including that a fence be built to screen the property. Trees will be planted outside the fence, and the sidewalk adjoining Adams Ave. will be replaced.
 The approval appeared to visibly anger many attendees, most of whom left angrily after the public hearing. Later, McConnell said she was surprised at the outcry her new business created.
 “We were walking in thinking it’s a land-use issue, that we had a property that has been an eyesore that we

want to develop,” she said. “We honestly thought most people were there for the flood thing. We assumed the community was in support of any economic development.”
 McConnell said the permit approval represents a “huge step forward” with regard to her business being licensed by the OLCC.
 “I don’t think anybody will really even know we’re there,” she said. “The standards are very high, and we’ll be watched closely by OLCC.”
 She said the meeting gave her a “sense of how involved, excited and proud Cottage Grove is.”
 “The neighbors were clearly concerned about safety, and they had an opportunity to demonstrate that,” she said.

TAX

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proceeds from a potential tax to any particular budget item.
 “We’re members of a community that is more than willing to tax itself to fund good things,” he said.
 Chamber of Commerce Director Travis Palmer called the potential tax a “rare opportunity” where a tax is suggested for businesses that the businesses do not oppose.

“It’s foolish to pass this up,” he said.
 The Council’s vote on the resolution to place the tax before voters in the Nov. 8 election came out 6-1 with Boone opposing. The question on the ballot is expected to read, “Shall Cottage Grove impose a three percent tax on sales of marijuana items by recreational marijuana retailers in the City?” If successful, it will be added to a state tax on recreational purchases that is set to drop from 25 to 17 percent.

“We’re members of a community that is more than willing to tax itself to fund good things.”

— Dispensary owner Darby Valley



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DON'T BRING:
 Empty containers, drums, radioactive waste, asbestos, explosives or electronics. For information about disposal of radioactive waste, asbestos and explosives, call Lane County Waste Management Division at 541-682-4120. Up to seven (7) Covered Electronic Devices, CEDs. Can be recycled for free at any one time at these 6 Lane County Transfer Stations; Glenwood, Cottage Grove, Florence, Oakridge, Veneta, and Vida during normal operating hours. Also, Lane County accepts sharps, oil, antifreeze and batteries of all types year-round at all refuse disposal sites. Call 541-682-4120 for more information.

What about hazardous waste from businesses? Businesses which generate small amounts of hazardous waste may pre-register to bring that waste to this event. Businesses must pay for disposal of the waste, but most can save money by using this program, rather than hiring a contractor on their own. For more information about this program, call Lane County Waste Management Division at 541-682-4120.

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