

"Tiny house" project introduces itself to the neighbors

By Zach Silva
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Last Saturday, the Cottage Village Coalition (CVC), a community group looking to provide affordable housing, had an open house to display the property that they are planning to build 13 tiny houses on. These houses will be around 200 square feet each with the idea of serving individuals or families who do not have the resources to afford other housing options.

This group in Cottage Grove is under the umbrella of the Eugene based group SquareOne that has been doing this work in Eugene and is expanding their model to smaller communities starting here in town.

"We don't really have druthers as to in which community these get developed because all the communities need them," said Lorne Bostwick the SquareOne Board of Directors President. "But Cottage Grove is ready to do it."

Cottage Grove is the first rural community that SquareOne is working with in this capacity. The partnership between the organization and Cottage Village Coalition was cited by Bostwick as a deciding factor in choosing Cottage Grove for the project as well as the property located on E. Madison. The goal, he said, is to eventually incorporate the model used in Cottage Grove for other rural projects around the state.

He expects construction on the 13 houses to be completed by next summer.

While it will be completed in a year, the process to getting there has been in the works for about a year and a half. In the winter of 2016, when temperatures were cold, people in town started expressing a desire to implement affordable housing in the city.

"It was freezing out and a people were dying out in the homeless camps so a bunch of people came together to think about housing in this community," said Valeria Clarke who is an organizer with Cottage Village Coalition.

While there is excitement for having a place for affordable housing, there are also some concerns from neighbors who will be living near the area.

"Some of the neighbors aren't as happy as others about us putting this here but we are hoping that over time as we create it they will see our vision the way we see it," said Clarke. "A lot of them are really supportive but hesitant. They're still kind of weary and I totally respect that."

CVC is working to fundraise construction fees for the project which is said are expected to mount \$800,000. The Meyers Memorial Trust grant the group received to purchase the Madison property stipulates that construction must be completed by the summer of 2018. However, CVC notes that it may be able to secure extensions for construction should they fail to meet the deadline.

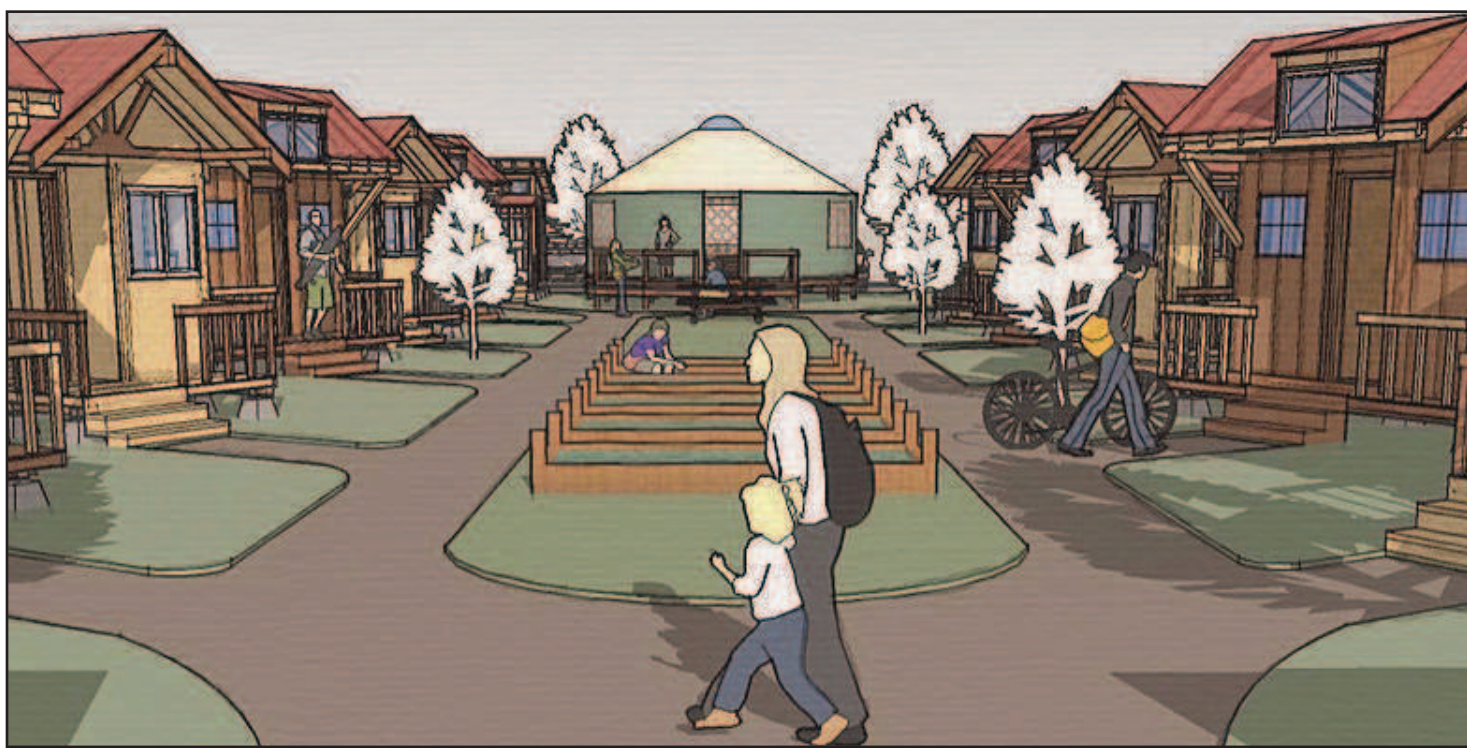


PHOTO COURTESY SQUAREONE

Cottage Village Coalition held an open house to invite the community to view its plans for a 13-home development meant to combat the lack of affordable housing in Cottage Grove.

Minimum wage Continued from A1

and try to sell advertising, I hear businesses say we need to seriously need to look at our operations due to the minimum wage going up."

He also noted that he believed the increase in pay per hour would lead to further automation and higher prices at local businesses.

Reiten owns KNND Radio and employs six people, part-time. According to him, the Cottage Grove Chamber of Commerce did not take an official stance on the issue when it was working its

way through the legislature.

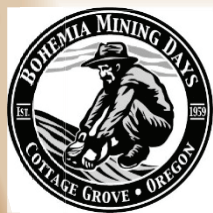
According to the Oregon Employment Department, 14 percent of the jobs state-wide were affected by the increase in minimum wage pay.

A study by the National Low Income Housing Coalition earlier this year stated that, while minimum wage varied across the country, in no state was it possible for an individual to work 40 hours in a minimum wage position and rent a median apartment.

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FREE
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August 12th
Saturday 10:00am-1:00pm
Cottage Theatre
700 Village Drive,
Cottage Grove



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Our Sponsor & Volunteer Appreciation Dinner is Friday August 11 at 6 pm. Contact us for location and to RSVP.

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