



CAITLYN MAY/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

A resident speaks about his concerns during Monday night's City Council meeting in regard to the BUILD Grant application and potential changes to downtown.

GRANT from A1

streets on Main Street and widening sidewalks — the main point of contention at Monday's meeting. Councilman Jake Boone noted that some of the sidewalks were not accessible and the city needed to make necessary repairs while mayor Jeff Gowing said he was not in favor of the suggestion to widen the sidewalks, citing the recent

addition of picnic benches outside of the Axe and Fiddle, a restaurant on Main Street.

"...Should we have 12-foot sidewalks so Axe and Fiddle can have more benches and expand their business? No," he said.

Boone noted that applying for the grant was the "least worst way" of repairing Main Street.

"The vast majority of the plan is fixing things that need fixing," he said, adding that if the city did not apply for the

grant, it would still have to make repairs to streets, curbs and other infrastructure on Main Street but would have to block businesses several times as funds became available to make the repairs.

Resident Duane Taddaei, who came to the meeting with a sign that read "Refine not Redefine" told the board that any improvements to Main Street would cost money to maintain and questioned whether the city could afford it.

The project, according to Meyers, would center around downtown Cottage Grove and surrounding alleys. Information provided to the council by Meyers and Public Works and Development Director Faye Stewart stated that the project would, "include repaving Main Street and adjacent alleys, installation of accessible sidewalks with street trees, new in-ground infrastructure and improved aesthetics for Main Street and adjacent streets within the downtown historic district."

Monday's vote, however, did not tie the city's hands in regards to the plan. City staff and council members noted that the plan could be "tweaked" if the city was awarded the funds.

Gowing, who voted against the refinement plan two years ago, said, "I will fight the plan to the end. I'm for getting money so we have something to fight about later."

Councilor Kenneth Roberts told the board he had spoken to 200 people between the July 4th holiday and Monday night's meeting. He said only one person was in favor of the plan and so, citing his promise to listen to his constituents, voted against the item that did not take action on the plan, but rather, allowed staff to apply for \$10 million in funds. Roberts was the sole vote against the motion.

Meyers told the council he thought Cottage Grove had a "good chance" at being selected given its rural designation and the fact that it has invested in fiber cables and other infrastructure improvements.

The grant is expected to be awarded on Dec. 18 of this year.

Gold Rush 5K set to run July 21 through downtown

Now in its fourth year at the corner of Sixth and Washington streets in downtown Cottage Grove, the Gold Rush 5K Run/Walk will draw a crowd for a race that benefits youth racing activities in southern Lane County.

On Saturday, July 21, beginning at 9 p.m., runners and walkers will take off for a flat, fast loop around downtown, passing historic neighborhoods and even some of the Cottage Grove area's fabled covered bridges on their way back to the Brewstation — a sponsor of the race — at the corner of Sixth and Washington streets.

The Gold Rush is one of four major and several smaller events organized annually by Run CG, a group of running enthusiasts dedicated to staging quality runs and walks that showcase the charm of

the Cottage Grove area. Other races on the Run CG calendar include the Fools Rush, held each April Fool's Day.

The race takes place during Bohemia Mining Days, a four-day event that has celebrated the area's mining heritage for over 50 years.

Prior to the race, on Saturday morning, area youth are invited to participate in the Gold Dash, a 500-meter run beginning at 10 a.m. at the corner of Main and 10th Streets in Cottage Grove.

A sizable crowd gathered there for the Grand Miners Parade will cheer the runners on during this fun event that features chocolate coins as its reward.

More information about Run CG or the Gold Rush 5K can be obtained by visiting www.runcg.com or calling 541-731-9284.

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