

Council agrees to hep fund warm-water therapy pool at aquatic center

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On Monday, Oct. 8, the Cottage Grove City Council agreed to allow city staff to work with the school district to fund a warm-water therapy pool at the Warren H. Daughtery Aquatic Center to the tune of \$200,000.

The community pool, set for construction through August of next year, is one of the last projects on the South Lane School District's list of improvements around the district with the funds from a \$35 million bond passed by voters in 2016.

According to City Manager Richard Meyers, the city sets aside \$50,000 for the pool out of its budget each year citing the pool's contribution to the community with children's swim lessons and activities for seniors. The remaining \$150,000 requested by the school

district could be made up, according to council, through the waiving of building fees and other in-kind funds.

At the Oct. 1, South Lane School District school board meeting, the school board approved a partnership with GBC Construction for the project. Representatives from BLRB Architects spearheaded the selection process that saw GBC Construction and Hyland Construction- the company that built fellow bond money recipient, Harrison Elementary School- both placed bids for the pool. GBC's bid came in at \$4.8 million dollars.

"(GBC Construction is) great so we have no problem recommending them moving forward. Additionally, we looked at the work they've done previously and this project falls squarely within the sports complexes that is on their website," BLRB's Edmund Wadeson told the school board on

Oct. 1.

The upgrade for the aquatic center, was initially set at \$5.1 million but will now have a price tag of \$6.1 million after the addition of soft costs including design fees, permit fees and construction management and furniture and fixture prices.

The board felt comfortable spending additional funds on the project, it said, after the district finished payments for the new Harrison Elementary, had accrued interest in the bond money and received a \$4 million matching grant from the state.

The warm water pool was part of the discussion when a community task force met last year to discuss options for the aging pool. Aside from a remodel of the locker room and a competition-approved sized pool, a smaller, warm water pool was toward the top of the wish list citing toddler swim classes and therapy

uses for senior community members. Due to budgetary concerns, however, the district opted to leave room for the therapy pool but not construct it at the same time as the other renovations.

During the Oct. 8 meeting of the city council, Meyers informed the board that the community's current warm water therapy pool, located in the community center, would begin to cost the city money in repairs and threatened damage to the building.

"We don't want Travis (Palmer, Chamber of Commerce Executive Director) walking in one day and there's ceiling on his desk," councilor Garland Burbach said, noting the effects of having a pool inside an aging building had on the infrastructure. The moisture from the pool, according to Meyers, is affecting the building and moving the pool to the Aquatic Center would save the city repair money and the staff cost of run-

ning the pool year-round. The space the pool is currently in could continue to be utilized, Meyers said, as a storage or office space.

"It would be cheaper to have the warm water pool go in the same time as they're doing this other work," Meyers explained to the board of the construction timeline for the pool.

While the city has agreed to chip in, the district still has some fundraising to do. According to the district's latest estimates, the warm water pool is projected to cost \$520,000.

"The city recognizes that so we're excited to have that conversation with them and we're also excited to talk to some other potential donors in our community," South Lane Communications Coordinator Garrett Bridgens said prior to the Oct. 8 council meeting. "Funders who are interested in helping us get there."

CANDIDATES from A1

behind Multnomah County which houses Portland. Overall, Lane County reported 1,529 homeless individuals.

"There is a serious problem because no one wants to victimize the homeless," Lamb-Solsbee said noting that some homeless individuals struggle with drugs and alcohol. "I talked to several people who live across from the church that does Beds for Freezing Nights and they're having a hard time because their kids want to go out in the yard and there's needles in the street..." Lamb-Solsbee also recounted a personal experience as a small-business owner when the temperature had not dropped low enough for Beds for Freezing Nights (a free overnight shelter) to open and businesses on Main

Street, according to Lamb-Solsbee, had their plant pots smashed by individuals upset by the shelter's decision not to open.

Boone cited the need to house people in order to provide them services and said that he'd done the math and that if every community in Oregon attempted to house the homeless, each community would be responsible for 4.8 people per 1,000 people meaning Cottage Grove's share would be 48 people. The key, however, would be for communities to attempt the feat at the same time so that no community went first and ultimately attracted homeless individuals while other communities did not help shoulder the burden.

Fleck — whose day job sees him at the head of the local food pantry, Community Sharing — said two minutes was not enough to talk homelessness but cited supportive and transi-

tional housing and several programs statewide he supported.

On the issue of affordable housing, both Rigel and Lamb-Solsbee said they hoped to research the issue further while Fleck cited his workshops with local realtors, builders and city staff to address the issue. Boone said the best thing the city could do was to "get out of the way" of those attempted to increase the housing inventory.

In March of this year, local realtors placed rent in Cottage Grove between \$600 for a one-bedroom apartment to \$1,600 for a three-bedroom apartment. Hayden Homes placed a new housing development on Highway 99 but it was cited during the forum that those homes may not be considered affordable for potential Cottage Grove residents. Cottage Village, a housing project being developed by SquareOne Villages and a local support group, will aim to help

those in danger of becoming homeless but the 13 tiny homes would not be able to house a family of four.

The candidates also discussed the partnership between the school district and the city in running the community pool. The city recently agreed to allow the city manager to work with the district to help fund a portion of the pool's remodeling project. Currently, the city provides \$50,000 to the pool each year and while he said he noted the pool's contributions to the community, Boone said he was not an advocate of continuing to pay that sum in the future. Fleck also noted his discomfort in funding that \$50,000 while the remaining candidates echoed their support for the pool.

The last question chosen by the legislative council before turning the questioning over to the audience, was about the Main Street Refinement Plan. The plan, which addresses both the in-

frastructure and the feel of downtown Cottage Grove has suggestions regarding the street widths and sewer system, has been a source of contention. The city has submitted an application for a grant that would provide \$10 million to implement the plan. Answers ranged across the board with Fleck, Boone and Burbach noting that they weren't in favor of every aspect of the plan but that community input would be included before the plan would move forward. Solsbee, who owns two businesses downtown also supported changes to downtown that would not tarnish its history and Rigel and Hermansen noted changes that had already begun downtown like the painting of buildings.

Candidate for Ward 3, Raymond Ackerman, and Greg Ervin running unopposed for Ward 4, did not attend.

LORANE NEWS

- This Thursday, Oct. 18 CAL School Board meets at 7 p.m. in Applegate Elementary School.
- On Friday, Oct. 19, Applegate grades K-3 will travel to Northern Lights Tree Farm for a colonial harvest day adventure.
- A free fall Harvest Festival

will be on Friday, Oct. 26, at Applegate Elementary from 6-9 p.m. Donations of bags of candy for trick or treaters will be welcomed.

• Come to a fundraising dinner at Crow Grange for Cody Tripp on Saturday, Oct. 27, to help him beat cancer. A meal

of Swiss steak with homemade pumpkin pie will be served. There will also be door prizes, raffle prizes and silent auction for only \$18 per person.

Many of you don't know that Cody and his brother attended Lorane Elementary and their mother was the cook during

that time. He was also one of the wild land firefighters who fought the fire on Mitchell's and Matchulat's properties.


So Lorane, let's turn out to

help him.

• Again this year, Lorane Christian Church is hosting the Trunk'n' Treat in the church parking lot on Halloween, Oct.

31, from 5 to 7 p.m.

Anyone can come and join the fun. Hot soup and cider will be available.



HOLIDAY BAZAAR

Fill out the form below to have your organization's holiday bazaar included in the bazaar listing in the Cottage Grove Sentinel each Wednesday during the holidays. Cost for this service is \$45.00 for a 1x3 advertisement, 50 words or less. Please enclose check or money order if mailing in this listing.

Call us at 541-942-3325 for more information.
Deadline is NOON, Thursday for the following week's publication.
Must be pre-paid to be accepted.


ORGANIZATION: _____

DATE OF EVENT: _____

LOCATION: _____


TIME: _____

FEATURED ITEMS OR ATTRACTIONS:



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In Honor of All Veterans

The Cottage Grove Sentinel is preparing to publish its "Salute to Vets" a special section devoted to all military veterans who are Cottage Grove-area residents or have a connection to this area.

If you are interested in sharing your military story in the annual Veterans Day publication, or in updating information that we have published previously, please complete the form below and submit it to the Cottage Grove Sentinel. Service photographs are also welcome.

Submit forms and photos (preferably) by e-mail to cgnews@cgsentinel.com; or by mail to Cottage Grove Sentinel, Attn: Caitlyn May, PO Box 35, Cottage Grove, OR 97424; or drop forms off at the Cottage Grove Sentinel, 116 N. 6th Street, Cottage Grove.

Please be sure that all materials are carefully labeled with your name and phone number. **ALL FORMS AND PHOTOGRAPHS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY OCTOBER 31, 2018.**

Thank you for participating in this project to remember and honor our veterans.

Name: _____

Contact Phone Number: _____

Branch of Service: _____

Rank Achieved (optional): _____

Dates Served: _____

Where did you serve? _____

Special Information (E.G., POW): _____

Has your veterans information been published previously in the Cottage Grove Sentinel Veterans Publication?
YES NO

Do we have your military photo(s) on file? YES NO

(Note: If you have submitted photos in the past, we will still have them on file.)