

SLSD from A1

Community’s proposal was selected over two others, one of which was also submitted by Blackstone Building Community.

“The main differences between the proposal that was chosen and the two that were not was that the proposal that was chosen

had more housing ... and also the type of ownership,” McCasline said.

The selected proposal estimates between 90-100 units can be built on the 8.64-acre property, consisting of a mixture of housing such as duplexes and single-family homes. It also allows for home ownership as opposed to management.

The homes are targeting potential homeowners who fall between 80-120 percent of median household income with an estimated price range between \$195,000 to \$295,000 per home.

United States Census Bureau data puts Cottage Grove’s median household income at \$47,316 per year.

A proposal by Homes for Good, Lane County’s low-income housing agency, was passed over by the

board. The agency proposed a target demographic of individuals and families making 50-80 percent of median household income, though the proposal did not allow for the degree of home ownership sought by the board.

Though a need for more low- and middle-income housing development was highlighted in the city’s 2018 Housing Needs Analysis, the city’s low vacancy rate necessitates a general

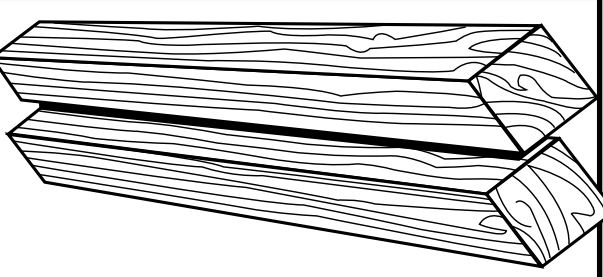
increase in housing stock as well.

In the 20-year plan recommended by the analysis, it suggested building an average of 69 dwelling units annually to meet the projected need of 1,379 more units by 2038, a number which would be a challenge to reach if single-family detached homes continue as a development trend. The analysis stated that as of 2016, these homes make up about 75 percent of the

city’s housing index.

“More housing is one of the goals,” said McCasline. “Another goal of the school district is to be able to house our staff here. In the school district’s interest, we have lost some staff in the past – and in the very near past – to positions in Eugene and Springfield where there’s housing available.”

The \$400,000 from the property sale will be directed toward maintenance on district buildings.



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pronounced homeless population in Cottage Grove, Gagner said that even prior to the court’s decision, meting out punishment for those sleeping outside was not common practice.

“We rarely issue citations

for the ordinance of unlawful lodging,” he said. “Only in the most extreme circumstances.”

The past few years, though, have seen a push by the city to get homeless camps on the outskirts of town out of the woods.

“But the first thing I said was, ‘They’re going to go

somewhere,” Gagner said. “They ended up in town under bridges and business doorways. ... They’re human beings. They exist. And they have to sleep.”

Still, a solid solution to the challenge of homelessness remains elusive. In light of the court decision, a contingent of unhoused denizens could theoretically set up a semi-permanent camp on public property in town.

However, averting sanitation violations such as littering could pose an unworkable challenge and would require a highly organized system for success.

“It’s just a problem that I don’t see a really good solution to,” Gagner said. “Eugene tried a thing a few years ago with a contained area where they had security and let people camp outside and that turned into a

nightmare — from sanitation and other things.”

In 2018, the City of Eugene set up temporary homeless camping on county-owned land along Highway 99, known as Camp 99, as an “emergency stopgap” to dozens of people camping in a lot across the street from the county courthouse. Camp 99 officially closed last January after the camp was reportedly becoming unsafe.

“If the city established something like that ... there’s no reason for me to think it would turn out any differently than the failed experiment in Eugene,” said Gagner. “I’ve given it a heck of a lot of thought. ... The solution escapes me.”

Cottage Grove, however, is significantly less saturated than Eugene by the challenge of homelessness. As such, Gagner does not see the court decision as a particular burden to law enforcement methods.

“I would hesitate to charge somebody on our city ordinance of unlawful lodging even if we did have a facility that you could go to but for whatever reason they didn’t want to go there,” he said, citing the possibility of safety concerns at shelters. “You can’t force someone to stay where they don’t want to stay.”

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DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

Emergency preparedness tips for seniors

Natural disasters can strike at any time, and when they do, the damage is often considerable. According to the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, between 2005 and 2014 natural disasters caused \$1.4 trillion in damage across the globe, affecting 1.7 billion people along the way.

Various preventive measures can protect people and their homes from the potentially devastating impact of natural disasters. For example, oceanfront communities may be able to decrease property damage by exacting certain measures, such as building homes on stilts.

Another way to prevent tragedy related to natural disasters is to develop an emergency preparedness plan before the next storm strikes. That’s important for everyone, but especially so for seniors, many of whom live with mobility issues that can compromise their ability to escape the eye of oncoming storms.

In recognition of the potential problems seniors face when natural disasters strike, the American Red Cross offers the following tips to seniors and their families so aging men and women can make it through such situations safe and sound.

- Make arrangements to contact loved ones. Prior to an emergency, seniors and their support network should make arrangements to make immediate contact once a disaster strikes. Determine who will make initial contact and how that contact will be made (i.e., via phone, text message, social media, etc.), as well as who will be responsible for providing assistance if necessary. Such a plan lets everyone within the support network know their precise responsibilities, which limits confusion in the sometimes hectic hours and days after disaster strikes.
- Exchange keys. Make sure everyone in the support network has keys to seniors’ homes. In so doing, support networks are increasing the chances that someone will be able to reach potentially vulnerable seniors if the primary contacts are incapable of doing so.
- Let others know where emergency supplies are kept. Everyone should have emergency supplies in their homes. Seniors should not take it for granted that such supplies can be easily found if they become incapacitated during a storm. Make sure such information can be easily accessed during a storm by emailing it to your support network and/or posting the information in a convenient location in your home, such as on the refrigerator.
- Share your evacuation plans. In the wake of recent disasters, many communities that did not previously feel vulnerable to natural disasters have devised evacuation plans for residents. Seniors should share these plans with their support networks. Doing so makes it easier for relatives to find you if you must evacuate your home before help arrives.
- Share important medical information. Seniors should share medical information, such as healthcare providers and a list of the medications they’re taking. This can make things easier for emergency responders to successfully treat people who become incapacitated during storms.

Emergency preparedness strategies save lives. More information about how seniors can prepare for emergencies is available at www.redcross.org.



PUT TOGETHER A PLAN

Make sure all the pieces are in place to render you and your family prepared in the event of a natural disaster.

- Listen to radio or television newscasts for the latest weather information, and follow all evacuation directions and suggestions.
- Keep a stock of non-perishable food items as well as bottled water on hand inside your home.
- Keep a 72 Hour Kit on hand inside your home that is easy to get to in the event of a disaster.

For more information and tips on disaster response and preparedness, contact your local emergency services center.
South Lane Fire & Rescue • 233 Harrison Ave, Cottage Grove 541-942-4493 • 55 South 1st Street, Creswell 541-895-2506



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