

Park: Idea includes gazebo, parking, play area

Continued from Page 1

be creating a whole new park that's not in any plan that we have."

Commissioners listened to the group's ideas. Most were encouraging, but cautious.

"We have a real hard time taking care of the parks we've

already created," Commissioner Mark Baldwin said.

The city does not have a parks department with separate staff dedicated toward mowing and maintenance.

"These projects look so simple, and they're not," Commissioner Rick Newton said.

His Kiwanis Club was willing to put \$50,000 toward a park splash pad for children, but there were too many reasons why it couldn't happen, he said.

"This definitely needs to be vetted through the advisory process," Mayor Henry Balensifer said. "I like your idea. Pitch it to the Parks Advisory Board and we'll reconvene after we get a recommendation on that. We're not turning this down per se, we just need to go through the regular process."



A drawing of what the park could include.



Cindy Yingst/The Columbia Press

A group of residents proposes turning this grassy lot behind City Hall into a public park.



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Awards: 17 leaders who made a difference

Continued from Page 1

Providence Seaside Hospital and Spruce Up Warrenton.

"We started this group with volunteers about three years ago with 14 people; we have 55 now," Spruce Up Director Brenda Hoxsey said as she and other members accepted the award in front of the fisherman statue at Warrenton Marina, which the group donated to the city.

"We have more donations, more activities, we're able to do more improvements," Hoxsey said. "We're just trying to help the community, beautify it and make it a nice place for the people that live here."

Businesses that won **Community Impact Awards**

were Ken & Al Inc., Columbia Memorial Hospital's Seaside Clinic, and Papa Murphy's in Seaside.

"We've had the CEDR awards now for several years and you are the first fisherman to receive this, so congratulations," CEDR Director Kevin Leahy told Ray Graves, owner of Ken & Al.

"It's hard to find people that want to work in this industry," Graves said. "But we're doing a good job of bringing some new crew and captains into this industry so our industry will be strong and continue to support our community. ... We plan on putting the U.S. shrimp market on the top in the world."

Innovation awards were

given to Good to Go, a small Astoria catering company that had to change its business plan to survive during COVID, and TLC credit union, which has a drive-through and in-house coffee bar.

There were four people named **Business Leader of the Year**: Destiny Dudley of The Culinary Concierge (new business); Terry and Todd Robinett of Merry Time Bar & Grill (small business, north county); Mrs. Tami's Daycare & Preschool (small business, south county); and Chris Laman, director of Columbia Memorial Hospital's OHSU Knight Cancer Collaborative (large business).

Laman is in charge of the Clatsop County Vaccine Task Force, leading a group of 300 volunteers for vaccination clinics.

"We've given more than 30,000 shots," Laman said. "Clatsop County should give a lot of thanks to all of those workers."

Exceptional Customer Service Awards went to Insomnia Coffee Co. (small business, south county); Purple Cow Toys (small business, north county); and Cannery Pier Hotel & Spa (large business).





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