

CITY COUNCIL

Arts, service organizations vie for city grants

By Dani Palmer
Cannon Beach Gazette

Twenty nonprofits are looking at a slice of Cannon Beach's community grants pie if the Parks and Community Services Committee recommendations for 2015-16 are approved.

The committee voted on the recommendations during a June 22 meeting and the City Council reviewed them during a work session on July 14.

A total of \$133,448 was requested, with \$75,000 available for the countywide service organizations. There were 40 pages of applications to sort through, and this year, the committee listened to 10-minute presentations by each group.

"It took more time, but it was worth it," said Barb Knop, Parks and Community Services Committee chair.

The projects

American Legion Post 168 asked for \$5,243 to upgrade its sound system and enhance its honorarium for musicians at Monday night "Burgers and Jam" sessions, Post Commander Dan O'Reilly wrote. The improvements are expected to increase attendance. The Parks and Community Services Committee suggested \$2,800.

Camp Kiwanilong Board, Inc. sought \$855 in scholarship funds to ensure no child is turned away from the local summer camp. Registration is \$195 for a regular six-night session. In 2014, three Cannon Beach youth directly benefited from the scholarships. Suggested: \$770.

The Cannon Beach Arts Association asked for \$17,905 to help support its five main programs: the Cannon Beach Gallery, an individual artist grant, an annual summer art camp, arts in education in the form of high school scholarships and a summer art internship. Suggested: \$8,658.

The Cannon Beach History Center and Museum sought \$1,000 for its upcoming "World War II on the Oregon Coast" exhibit. The exhibit feature information on the shelling of Fort Stevens, guerrilla patrols along the coast and more with artifacts on loan from sources such as the Oregon Military Museum and local veteran families. Suggested: \$720.

Clatsop County CASA plans to use any money it receives from the \$5,000 requested to enhance volunteer recruitment. There are currently 108 children in foster care, but only 60 with advocates. Suggested: \$2,970.

Clatsop Community Action requested \$8,900 to

By the numbers

Community grant recommendations

Organization	Amt. requested	Amt. suggested
American Legion Post 168	\$5,243	\$2,800
Camp Kiwanilong Board, Inc.	\$855	\$770
Cannon Beach Arts Association	\$17,905	\$8,658
Cannon Beach History Center and Museum	\$1,000	\$720
Clatsop County CASA	\$5,000	\$2,970
Clatsop Community Action	\$8,900	\$7,184
Coaster Theatre Playhouse	\$8,965	\$3,360
Healing Circle	\$1,500	\$1,260
Helping Hands	\$10,000	\$7,200
Lower Columbia Hispanic Council	\$2,000	\$1,240
North Coast Land Conservancy	\$9,000	\$5,300
North Coast Symphonic Band	\$1,000	\$860
Restoration House	\$8,000	\$4,820
Sea Turtles Forever	\$1,848	\$1,600
Seaside Hall	\$1,000	\$830
Seaside High School CYBORG Seagulls Robotics Team	\$600	\$556
Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District Foundation	\$2,500	\$1,420
The Harbor, Inc.	\$10,000	\$7,271
Tolovana Arts Colony	\$33,132	\$12,080
Wildlife Center of the North Coast	\$5,000	\$4,100
Total Requested	\$133,448	

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support the Cannon Beach Food Pantry, the South County Food Pantry and to continue assistance with housing and energy assistance programs for families and seniors living below the federal poverty rate. Suggested: \$7,184.

The Coaster Theatre Playhouse sought \$8,965 for developing and training its volunteer base, creating a class of 2016 scholarship for graduates continuing their artistic dreams, scholarships for the Coaster Theatre Kidz Camp and a volunteer coordinator. Suggested: \$3,360.

The Healing Circle sought \$1,500 for its community education project. In partnership with Clatsop Community College, the group plans to offer a structured class discussing child sexual abuse. Suggested: \$1,260.

Helping Hands asked for \$10,000 to help with its re-entry program in which homeless individuals are expected to eventually pay for a portion of their room and board. Funding will help provide a scholarship for two beds per month for one year, covering room, board and services for the first 60 days to 12 individuals. Suggested: \$7,200.

The Lower Columbia Hispanic Council has started a Spanish literacy class to assist adults who've only had two years or so of elementary school in their native country. They'll be able to obtain Mexico approved graduation certificates through the Instituto Nacional para la Educacion de Adultos website, and then work on their GEDs. LCHC requested \$2,000 for

five laptops for the students. Suggested: \$1,240.

The North Coast Land Conservancy plans to conserve what is now commercial timberland in a region called the Coastal Edge, stretching from Tillamook Head to Nehalem Bay. The \$9,000 being sought will assist in public outreach and education, and in the land acquisition. Suggested: \$5,300.

The North Coast Symphonic Band sought \$1,000 for its two hour Fourth of July concert. The performers are volunteers, but the guest conductor, soloists and sound technician are paid. Suggested: \$860.

The Restoration House asked for \$8,000 to continue its substance abuse program. With grant and donor assistance, the non-profit will be able to offer housing seven days a week throughout the year to those who cannot pay the room and board fee. Suggested: \$4,820

Sea Turtles Forever sought \$1,848 for micro-plastic filtration of sand in Cannon Beach. The group focuses on areas that have the highest density of marine micro plastic contamination, and the highest level of use by beach-goers, including Chapman Point and south Tolovana Beach. Suggested: \$1,600.

Seaside Hall provides a safe meeting location for those seeking recovery from alcohol and substance abuse. It sought \$1,000 to help with maintenance costs and repairs, including the replacement of old windows and upgrading aging plumbing. Suggested: \$830.

The Seaside High School CYBORG Seagulls Robotics Team asked for \$600 to help run its program. The team provides students with a hands on STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) experience, building their own robot and competing in statewide tournaments. Suggested: \$556.

The Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District Foundation asked for \$2,500 to help develop a new after school program aimed at providing the middle school youth of Clatsop County with mentoring, enrichment and out of school activities. Suggested: \$1,420.

The Harbor, Inc. is asking for \$10,000 to cover the costs of two domestic/sexual assault response team advocates who provide immediate social service assistance 24/7 to victims reporting domestic, sexual or stalking violence. Suggested: \$7,271.

The Tolovana Arts Colony plans to add any money it receives of the \$33,132 requested to the annual base budget to provide ongoing classes, special workshops, art events and to maintain Tolovana Hall for the community. Suggested: \$12,080.

The Wildlife Center of the North Coast asked for \$5,000 to cover general operating expenses of the wildlife hospital and care facility, to purchase food and medication for wildlife patients, pay expenses of its public education programs and fund conservation monitoring of environmental and wildlife health. Suggested: \$4,100.

The City Council will vote on recommendations in August.

Is room tax going to chamber or Visitor Center?

By Dani Palmer
Cannon Beach Gazette

The Visitor Center will soon benefit from the city's 1 percent room tax increase. Despite concerns the funds might be used for the Cannon Beach Chamber of Commerce rather than the Visitor Center, members of the City Council indicated they were ready to move forward with a contract in September.

The ordinance would increase the room tax by 1 percent beginning Oct. 1, and the Visitor Center would get 70 percent of that 1 percent. Thirty percent of the total of the room tax increase would go into the city's general fund.

The current room tax, last increased in 2010, is 7 percent.

Already budgeted for the Visitor Center this year was \$307,386. City Manager Brant Kucera said the center could expect roughly \$70,000 more per year with the addition of the room tax money. Altogether, the center would receive about \$380,000 per year from the city.

The room tax allocation was designated for the center during the city's budgeting process, but City Council talks have recently centered on whether the money would also benefit the Chamber of Commerce, which just received \$81,428 from the Tourism and Arts Commission.

Councilor George Vetter said there should be two contracts, one for the center and one for the chamber. He pointed out projects he says aren't associated with the Visitor Center, such as an advanced coordinator position.

Other councilors, such as Wendy Higgins, noted they understand Vetter's concern, but said there's overlap that can't be helped because the chamber is contracted to run the center.

"All these hats are under the same umbrella," Higgins said.

Councilor Mike Benefield added that it would be "a nightmare" to manage one place under two contracts.

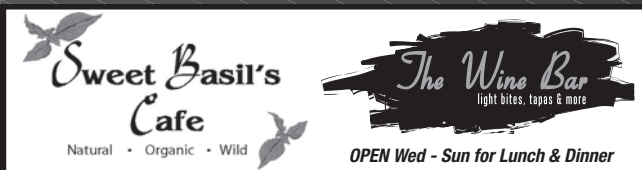
Councilor Melissa Cadwallader said those boundaries between the center and chamber should be clarified. Financial statements that show where the money is going are definitely needed, she added.

Cannon Beach Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Court Carrier stated the money would extend tourism efforts "into some kind of realm of being able to compete with the cities that are spending a lot of money in that area."

He added that Cannon Beach's Visitor Center is at about 6 to 8 percent tourism development and promotion funding level while many communities average 45 percent.

The Transient Room Tax Ordinance goes before the council in August.

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