

Recreation district looks to possible building plan

SEPRD from Page 1A

The project could keep the pool out of service for about six weeks, he said.

Formed in 1969, the SE-PRD boundary follows Seaside School District #10 boundary, excluding Gearhart and Cannon Beach.

"We're basically a resource available to the entire county," board of directors chairman Michael Hinton said Monday.

Expansion?

Hinton said the district is looking at the possibility of "some kind of expansion," either funded through a bond or system development charges — the fees paid by builders to the city for essential infrastructure. "That would give us a means of keeping abreast of urban growth and development," Hinton said. "It would help set aside money for capital improvements."

Among a wide variety of programs for all ages, the district offers aquatics, early education, the farmers market and events at the Bob Chisholm Community Center, including Meals on Wheels.

"We're considering some renovation or development project that would allow us to build or redesign the youth center and basketball court adjacent to the pool to develop a gym or indoor track," Hinton said.

The board is also keeping an eye on the Seaside School District expansion and possible utilization of former school buildings. "That's valuable property," Hinton said.

"The school district will probably need to take every advantage of a potential sale and gain from that to manage expenses," he said.



Sign at the Sunset Empire pool in Seaside. The pool will be closed for renovations for six weeks this fall.

Pool programs are drawing visitors from Astoria as a result of their lower cost and facilities. "A lot of them like our city parks, too," Hinton said, including an Americans with Disabilities Act accessible boat lot on the Wahanna River on the east side of Broadway Park. "Our programs seem to be thriving."

Budget

The district is in the middle of budget discussions, Hinton said. The board is on the same fiscal schedule as the city, with a year end of June 30.

Archibald and Finance Manager Jennifer Stephens presented a preliminary budget at the district's April board meeting.

"We're still going through the details," Hinton said. "We have a major overhaul of our swimming pool. We're going to shut it down and replace the plaster around the pool."

This shutdown will extend from September to November.

The district's general fund shows total revenues of \$2,794,247 for 2017-18, an increase from last year's revenues of \$2,777,606, almost a 10 percent increase. Along with recreational programs, the district's special events include the spring egg hunt, Halloween Thriller, the daddy and daughter dance and more. Recreation departments offer softball, basketball, runs, yoga and community outreach, among other programs. The budget is divided in six

departments, with the largest being aquatics, including three bodies of water, the main pool, the learner pool and the spa.

District revenues derive from property taxes, grants, timber tax and an ending fund balance, Archibald said.

"We've been fortunate to get some sizable grants, some really sizable in the past," Archibald said. "Today we have some really valuable smaller ones. "They help us kick-start some of the projects we've been working on but didn't have the funds for."

Of the roughly \$1.3 million of non-property tax revenues, the district generates 20 percent in fees from services provided throughout the year. Current and back taxes gener-

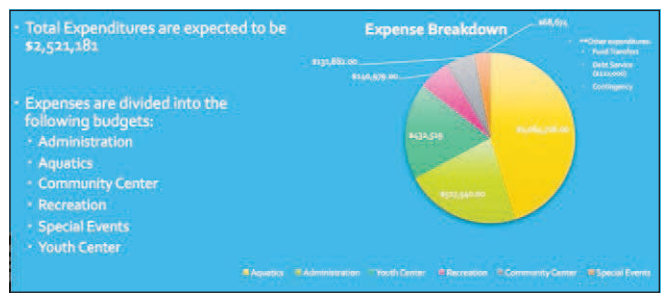


Chart displays the district's expenditures.

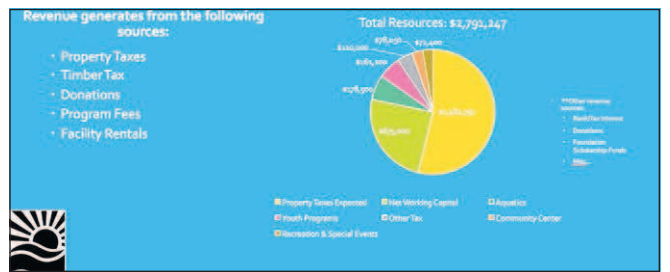


Chart indicates Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District revenue sources.

ate 55 percent, with an ending fund balance at 25 percent.

The board is scheduled to meet Tuesday, May 16, at 4 p.m. at the Bob Chisholm Community Center at 1225 Avenue A. The budget committee will meet immediately after the meeting at 5 p.m.

"Hopefully, if we don't need any further meetings, the budget committee will recommend the budget be adopted by the board, and it will come

before the board in June for us to vote on," he said.

As for future building plans, discussion will begin "depending on how our community feels," Archibald said. "This is going to need to be a community-driven project. We hope to engage our community and then get the help of some experts to see what's possible, what's feasible and what would be the best solution moving forward."

'Bullying' email stirs rec district race

Candidate steps aside after opponent harassed

By R.J. Marx
Seaside Signal



Kindwyn Hoge Veronica Russell

A candidate for the Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District has stepped aside from the May special district election after her opponent was subjected to harassing messages.

Kindwyn Hoge, a disabled stay-at-home mother, is asking voters to choose Veronica Russell, a development specialist and special events coordina-

tor, for the recreation district's board, since the deadline to officially withdraw from the ballot was in March. Hoge said she would step down from the position if she were to win Tuesday.

Russell said in an email that she had "received a piece of hateful/bullying mail at my home (referencing my running

for a position on this board), and a couple of subsequent hateful messages from a supporter of hers that were not endorsed by Kindwyn.

"I prefer not to comment further on the content, however I did receive a very nice voicemail from Kindwyn letting me know that she was not responsible for the mail I received and that she is upset that someone who supports her could do something like that."

Hoge, who describes herself as legally blind, said her campaign should have been "something special."

"You want to make a positive contribution," she said. "To me it's not that important to be on any board — what

they did to her, they did to me. I feel like they violated me as well."

Russell said she chose to look at the incident as a teachable moment.

"It is this kind of behavior that I am working to protect kids from through my 'bully-free zone' work with Seaside Rotary's Peace Builders committee," Russell said. "In diffusing bullying, I have learned it's best to give it no unnecessary attention, and instead focus on more positive and productive things."

The Position 1 race between Russell and Hoge is the recreation district's only contested campaign. Other candidates are running unopposed.

Plans for urban renewal offer possibilities

Renewal from Page 1A

contributing fully to the economy, according to a handout provided by Elaine Howard Consulting.

Funds from previous Seaside urban renewal projects have been used to bring improvements to the Prom, the Downing pocket park, removals of overhead utilities, downtown lighting, the city's sewage plant and the fire station among others.

Funding comes through increases in assessed values of local properties, consultant Scott Vanden Bos said. As new development arrives and existing properties are improved, assessments rise and see matching property tax increases.

Property taxes on the growth in assessed value in the urban renewal area — in the model used, about 25 years — are allocated to the city's Urban Renewal Agency and not the taxing districts.

"We get the money from the taxpayer," City Manager Mark Winstanley said. "The taxing districts stand on the side. The amount of money they can tax against in the urban renewal district gets frozen."

In Clatsop County, neighboring taxing districts in-

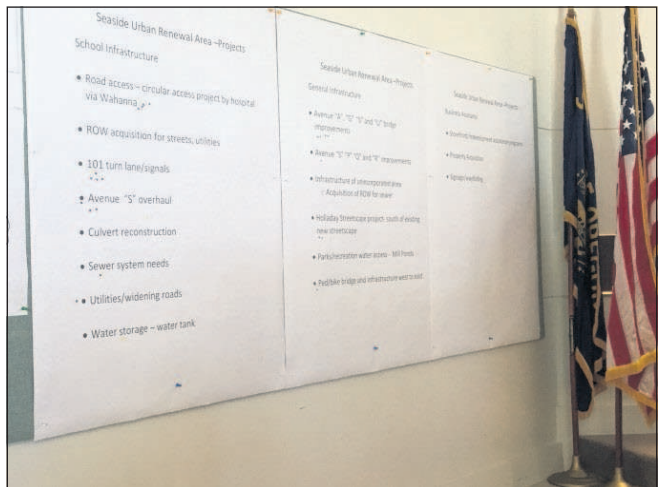


Scott Vanden Bos of Elaine Howard Consulting.

clude the Port of Astoria, 4H, Seaside Road, Union Health, Sunset Park, Sunset Transportation, Clatsop Community College, Northwest Regional Education Service District and Seaside School District 10. The county must review the plan before its approval.

City upgrades can lead to higher home values and in turn higher assessments, ultimately adding to funds for the urban renewal district. The city's last urban renewal district helped fund improvements on North Holladay Drive.

"This is where urban renewal has its impact," Winstanley said. "That's what we're seeing on North Holladay. The neighborhood's getting better and better and better. That's what it's all about. That's what we hope to do with a new urban renewal district."



Members of the public were invited to list their priorities for projects in an urban renewal district.

powered by

THE BRIDGE

music first

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

FLOORING

CCB# 205283

you walk on our reputation

Carpet Corner

Flooring • Installation • Carpet Cleaning

3470 Hwy 101 Suite 102 • Gearhart, Oregon
503.739.7577 • carpetcornergearhart.com

SECURITY

COASTAL ALARM

SYSTEMS
503-738-9003

LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED

Residential & Commercial: Burglary & Fire Protection, Video Surveillance, Central Station Monitoring, Remote Arm/Disarm

LICENSED • BONDED • INSURED

Seaside, Oregon • www.CoastalAlarm.net • info@CoastalAlarm.net
CCB# 201010 • Reg.# 977689-99

FLOORING

Laurelwood Compost • Mulch • Planting MacMix
Soil Amendments

YARD DEBRIS DROP-OFF
(no Scotch Broom)

503-717-1454

34154 HIGHWAY 26
SEASIDE, OR

Laurelwood Farm

LANDSCAPING

BOB McEWAN CONSTRUCTION, INC.

EXCAVATION • UNDERGROUND UTILITIES
ROAD WORK • FILL MATERIAL
SITE PREPARATION • ROCK

OWNED AND OPERATED BY MIKE AND CELINE McEWAN

503-738-3569

34154 Hwy 26, Seaside, OR
P.O. Box 2845, Gearhart, OR

SERVING THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST SINCE 1956 • CC48302

CONSTRUCTION

Randall Lee's 0% FINANCING AVAILABLE

Flooring America

Window Treatments, Fabric, Designer Wallpaper, Visit Our Counter Tops, All Flooring and Miele Vacuums Outlet!

2311 N. Roosevelt Dr., Seaside, OR 97138 • 503-738-5729
rfflooring@yahoo.com • www.RandallLeesFlooring.com

Randall Lee's Flooring Outlet • 3579 Hwy 101 Gearhart • 503-738-6756
Warehouse pricing • Open to the Public • Hundreds of instock rolls & remnants • In House Binding

BUSINESS DIRECTORY