

District seeks bond for expansion

Bond from Page 1A

Expansion plan

If approved, voters would fund construction of a recreation center featuring an indoor gym space, indoor walking track, group fitness, weight room and cardiovascular rooms. The funds would expand preschool and youth program space.

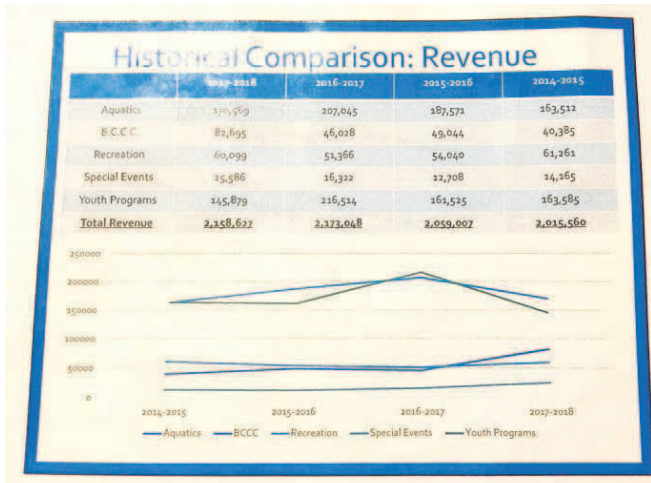
The measure addresses construction of family changing rooms, redeveloping current district space, parking an site improvements.

The estimated tax rate for the bonds is 70 cents per \$1,000 property value, or \$140 annually for a home with an assessed value of \$200,000.

Construction could start in “really late 2019 or early in 2020,” with about a year-and-a-half building period.

With a 20-year payoff period and an \$18 million expansion scenario, the tax impact to the owner of a \$200,000 property would be about \$126 per year. The impact for a \$400,000 property would be about double that.

The district will submit filings with the county to place the ballot measure on the November ballot, according to David Ulbricht, director of advisory services of the Special Districts Association of Oregon, which provides



SUNSET EMPIRE PARK AND RECREATION DISTRICT

A four-year historical comparison of rec district revenue. The district rough in about \$2.16 million in 2017-18.

legislative representation to special districts throughout the state.

Ulbricht participated in Tuesday’s meeting via phone.

Election paperwork must be filed by mid-August, he added.

Revenue, tax concerns

The bond will be decided in November by voters of the independent taxing district, who include most residents of the Seaside School District, excluding Cannon Beach and Gearhart.

The recreation center bond

is among several bond requests that will go before voters in November.

Bond financing will be sought for school improvements in Warrenton and Astoria and an expanded Clatsop County Jail.

Seaside School District voters approved a \$99.7 million bond measure for a new campus in the Southeast Hills in November 2016.

Skyler Archibald, executive director of the recreation district, presented a revenue comparison showing total funds from aquatics, the Bob Chisholm Community Center, recreation, special events

and youth centers totaling just under \$2.16 million in 2017-18, down from more than \$2.17 million the previous year.

Archibald attributed the dip to several factors, including an extended pool closure for upgrades.

Seaside resident John Morrison said revenue numbers were “flat” and “not sustainable.”

“My concern is this will fail, given the need because the perception of \$20 million on the back of \$100 million,” Morrison said, referring to the Seaside School District bond issue.

Morrison said he sought projections of district growth, numbers of visits and other metrics. “In order for it to pass, there’s got to be a little better story, if you will.”

Mills said he would like the public to understand the board’s process in selecting the terms of the bond proposal.

“When we looked at all the options from a 30-, to a 25-, to a 20-, to a 15- and a 10-year bond, how it would impact their taxes, we found this to be the least burdensome to them with the greatest amount of gain,” Mills said. “Our goal at the end of the day is to better the community.”

Food trucks could be coming to Seaside

Food from Page 1A

Seaside resident Matt Rose said he and his girlfriend love the idea. “They’re more of an experience for us,” he said.

Seaside Yoga’s Kristin Kabanuk said food carts offer opportunities for young entrepreneurs and could provide more choices. “For me as a business owner, we have very few health and wellness related businesses and eateries in this town,” she said. “It’s very hard to find a really good salad, a healthy smoothie. I’d like to see more options than fish and chips and chowders.”

Restaurant owners who attended the workshop largely opposed the prospect.

Doug Wiese of Dooger’s Seafood said there are already 75 food service establishments in Seaside. “I would suggest to this body that the restaurant pool in the city is stretched pretty far,” Wiese said. “Every person that stops in there and eats is one more meal that does not get taken sitting down in one of our restaurants.”

Tsunami Sandwich Co. owner David Posalski said employee shortages, limited housing and the short tourist season put brick-and-mortar businesses at a disadvantage. “Would it be great to have more varied businesses?” he said. “Yes. Would it be great



EDWARD STRATTON/THE DAILY ASTORIAN

Food cart owners Cindy Mendez and Gustavo Martinez opened Astoria Express in Astoria after a denial in Seaside.

to have more varied food options? Yes. Am I for it? No.”

He said opening food carts would be “destined to fail” and would not only hurt local businesses, but prove discouraging for cart operators. “For those of us foodies who want to see more options, let’s put more food festivals in the shoulder season,” Posalski said. “This is not about not wanting competition — it’s about preserving the resources the community has invested and supporting our neighbors, kids and charities with businesses that are going to give back.”

Wayne Poole, owner of Pig ‘N Pancake, said that food carts drew people for the “short duration.”

“The rest of us are trying to make it on a year-round basis, and the rest of us need the busy times to make the money, to make it viable,” Poole said. “My concern would be a level playing field.”

Teri Carpenter of the U Street Pub was a dissenting voice among the restaurant community.

“I really don’t think food carts are going to put me out of business,” Carpenter said. “If they siphon off business, then maybe I’m not doing such a good job. My idea is if we make our town a better town, we’d do a better job. Let’s make Seaside a better town and the problems will take care of themselves.”

Morrisey said he sought a

highly regulated framework like those in other cities, with a pod formula that could house a number of well-maintained and regulated food options.

“It would be year-round infrastructure,” Morrisey said. “If a private business owner wanted to put in a pod, that’s what I’d be looking at.”

Carts can succeed without taking business from sit-down restaurants, he added. “There are hundreds of people in town who would love to see food carts — under the right structure,” he said.

Reactions from other city councilors were mixed.

Mayor Jay Barber said any new rules should be crafted with input from existing businesses.

City Councilor Randy Frank, a former restaurateur, said he was “not a fan” of having food carts in Seaside, while Councilor Tita Montero looked to delay the discussion until after the busy summer season.

“It’s incredibly popular with the general public,” Morrisey said after the meeting. “Obviously restaurant owners are concerned, which I understand, but we’re just going to move forward and continue with a vote. But first we’re going to craft an ordinance that basically addresses all the concerns people have.”

Gearhart considers wheelchairs

Beach from Page 1A

has donated a third wheelchair to Seaside, expected to be available later this month.

“They’re pretty durable and they move pretty easy,” Anderson said. “When you get into some of the softer sand, it’s a little difficult, but when you get into the hard-packed sand, it’s a breeze.”

Anderson asked the city to cover the cost of a \$13 per month insurance policy.

The budget could “take on this cost,” City Administrator Chad Sweet said. “The risk is pretty low. And I like the public-private partnership on this.”

Resident Jeanne Mark suggested establishing a fund for additional wheelchairs. “If the one is successful, it’s likely we can fund another,” Mark said.

For people with disabilities, Stanley-Meade’s experience offers promise. “It was exhilarating to feel the ocean splash over my feet!” she said. “A marvelous day for sure.”

Massage therapist Alishia Boucher aims to provide drug-free pain relief

Massage from Page 1A

which is important if you have a job that requires you take drug tests,” she said.

The spa also offers a range of other services including facials and waxing, all performed by Kristi Carson, a friend of Boucher’s who is also her co-massage therapist. Couples massage is available by request.

“We’re offering our signature facial, a revitalizing facial, a cleansing detox facial, and facials geared specifically for men,” Boucher said. She will be adding teen facials in the future, because it’s never too early to start caring for your skin. The spa offers all kinds of waxing from eyebrows to Brazilian. Waxing is also available for men.

Seaside Massage and Spa uses only natural and organic products. Boucher’s preferred products are by the company Essance, made by Jasmine Tran in Portland. This reporter tried a sample

‘MY INTENTION IS THAT PEOPLE COME IN HERE AND FEEL THEY ARE BEING PAMPERED AT AN EXCEPTIONAL LEVEL... BECAUSE OF MY OWN EXPERIENCE, I HAVE EMPATHY FOR THOSE WHO COME IN PAIN.’

Alishia Boucher

of the facial cleanser and was impressed.

“My intention is that people come in here and feel they are being pampered at an exceptional level,” Boucher said. “Our clients come to us for wellness and care. Because of my own experience, I have empathy for those who come in pain.”

Boucher is an active advocate for expressing gratitude. She thanks her landlords, Kim and Blaine Roberts of Westport Winery. She especially thanks her husband, Joseph Boucher, who she said helped her get her new place of business ready.

“He is the love of my life and has been such a huge supporter of this adventure,” she said.

Business hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., seven days a week. Call 971-320-0624 to schedule an appointment or book through their Facebook page on message.

Boucher also offers mobile massage to your home or hotel, from relaxation to deep tissue. “We’re able to greatly improve chronic pain and tightened muscles,” she said. “We listen to your needs and create a massage designed specifically to you and your needs.”

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