

Gearhart wins state grant for parks master plan

By **R.J. MARX**
Seaside Signal

Gearhart is poised to develop a parks and recreation master plan after the state awarded the city \$15,000 grant funds for the project. The award is part of the 2019 Local Government Grant Program from the Oregon Parks Department. The state’s contribution will be met with an additional \$4,000 from the

city toward project cost. Along with the city of John Day, Linn County and the county of Umatilla, Gearhart was one of four local governments to receive a local government grant. “Hopefully we are able to follow the same strategy as our transportation plan a while back,” Mayor Matt Brown said in announcing the grant at the Oct. 2 City Council meeting. “We’ve got a lot of great ideas —

we’ve talked about pickleball, improving our parks, ways to connect them, and to have recreational options for our citizens.” In September, Gearhart planner Carole Connell drafted a summary of the plan, which aims to develop a parks and recreation master plan for land within the Gearhart urban growth boundary. The plan, which will ultimately become incorporated in the city’s compre-

hensive plan, will study the use of existing facilities and assess park needs as well as identify future sources of funding to meet plan goals. The plan is expected to be completed by Oct. 31, 2021, according to Mark Cowan of the Parks and Recreation Department. “This will ensure continued credibility and success of the local government grant program by demonstrating effective results to citizens and policy makers,”

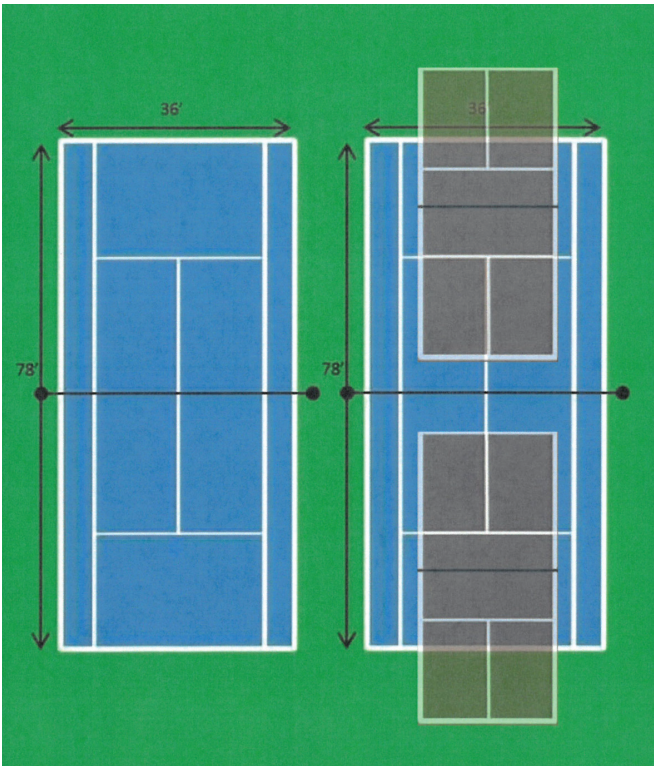
he wrote in announcing the grant. The plan is a top goal of the Gearhart Planning Commission, which has “the skills, interest, continuity and time to do the work,” Connell said in her plan summary. The project will be coordinated with state and local agencies and nonprofits including the Oregon Department of Transportation, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Department

of Environmental Quality, the city of Seaside, the Seaside School District, Clatsop County, and the North Coast Land Conservancy. Gearhart planning officials will schedule public informational meetings, provide city blog updates, public notices, correspondence and regular updates to the City Council during the plan development, concluding with adoption of the plan and policy implementation.

Pickleball facility gets boost from players’ donations

By **R.J. MARX**
Seaside Signal

Gearhart’s tennis courts were closed for power washing Thursday, the first step to a modified pickleball court at the corner of Pacific Way and North Marion. And in a change of heart, pickleball players will donate one-half the \$2,800 cost of painting and nets. “We didn’t want to ‘take my pickleball ball and go home,’” pickleball enthusiast and Gearhart resident Wally Hamer said Thursday. “We decided to stay the course and get the job done. So it’s moving forward.” Pickleball players will offer financial support, agreeing to provide \$1,400 toward the cost, matching the city’s contribution for painting and nets. In August, Gearhart City Council unanimously voted to install a new pickleball court at the tennis courts on Pacific Way and North Marion. The \$16,000 plan would have removed the east tennis court in its entirety and installed two pickleball courts. Pickleballers originally pledged support for the plan. But concerns from res-



City of Gearhart

Pickleball option 3, ultimately adopted, keeps both tennis courts and adds lines for two pickleball courts to the eastern court with two rollaway pickleball nets, creating a multiuse court.

idents — including tennis players who bemoaned the loss of a tennis court — brought the matter back to the city’s September council agenda. The revised plan calls for keeping both tennis courts while adding lines for two

pickleball courts to the east court, with two rollaway pickleball nets creating a multiuse court. After that meeting, representatives of the pickleball association said they were withdrawing funds, stating that the hybrid use failed to

PICKLEBALL DONATION

‘We didn’t want to “take my pickleball ball and go home.”’

— Pickleball enthusiast Wally Hamer



R.J. Marx

The eastern court in Gearhart will be used for both pickleball and tennis.

meet their needs. But fans of the game, described as a cross between ping-pong and tennis, had a change of heart and offered to participate after all, the city announced at its Oct. 2 council meeting. On Wednesday’s council meeting, Mayor Matt Brown offered gratitude for the donation. ““We really appreciate the sport,” he said. “Hopefully, it will work out.” The power washing will be followed with the painting of lines for pickleball

and the purchase of a movable net at the east tennis court. The organization will provide up an additional \$3,600 for pickleball play as the city looks to the future with the development of a \$15,000 parks master plan.

Cannon Beach restricts vacation rentals

By **NICOLE BALES**
The Astorian



Colin Murphey/The Astorian

Cannon Beach has moved to restrict vacation rentals.

their fines deferred if they join a property management company. The reasoning behind that move, Adams said, is that rentals under property management companies tend to have fewer violations. The city said the goal with the changes is to strike a balance between the residential and resort elements of the community. “This is a discussion that has been elevated to the state level as a concern for a lot of people, myself included, for how short-term rentals might possibly impact the livability of their communities,” said state Rep. Tiffany Mitchell, D-Astoria. She said she came to see the City Council discuss what she thinks “impacts so many of our smaller communities, particularly vacation communities.” The council unanimously voted to approve the ordinance as amended, however, the process was somewhat

unusual. Earlier in the meeting, there was not unanimous approval of the amendment. Councilor Robin Risley and Councilor Brandon Ogilvie voted against the changes, with Risley citing flaws she saw with the procedure. The councilors decided to table the motion for the next meeting. However, later in the evening, the city attorney asked councilors to redo the motions to make sure the procedure was done correctly. When the roll was called again, Risley and Ogilvie changed their votes. City councilors then moved to adopt the ordinance as amended. “What I was objecting with was that we didn’t get the information for the public in time, and so I wanted to make a point of that,” Risley said afterward. “But as I saw how everyone was voting, I thought, ‘Let’s move on.’”

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