

Trail: 'There's so much good to it'

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The trail would follow the existing logging road along the northern perimeter of the logged property. The trail would vary from 4 feet to 8 feet wide on packed gravel and dirt. A cedar bridge would connect back to the existing logging track up to the fire hydrant on the eastern access road.

Meyer, a former fifth grade teacher with the district, said existing roads comprise 40% to 45% of the proposed land. Other parts cross filled dirt on the north side down to the playing field. There would be no infringement or impact on Coho Creek drainage or existing wetland areas, he said. Some of the section follows existing elk and deer trails.

With its proximity to the school track, a small stone patio and coaching deck would provide cross country coaches an observation place to time their runners mid-race, Meyer said. "With the views that we have up here, I could see this becoming a really significant cross-country ticket to say, 'Look, we've got a ripping trail for our kids for sports.' It's a beautiful setup, because as a parent, you want to see your kid."

Students who are engaged in more hands-on and outdoor science experience succeed at a higher rate than just classroom instruction, added Meyer. "Our access to a variety of ecological systems for our science instruction by having a ready trail system out our backdoor is amazing," he said.

The trails would also benefit the community, who already use the lower trails around the elementary school, he said. Sunset Hills and Cooper Street residents using the trails already would benefit from the expansion effort as well.

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John Meyer, retired teacher

"I'm counting hundreds and hundreds of people who would benefit," Meyer said. "We can all enjoy the beautiful views and a beautiful trail up to the school. That's a win."

He said the trail would be funded by community businesses and individuals who have committed to donate time, money, and manual labor to the trail venture.

The cost of operating a small Bobcat tractor for a proposed three weeks cutting off the trail has been met, Meyer said. The machine has been donated and the contractor who operates it is licensed and insured with a \$2 million bond.

Geotechnical studies would also be necessary, board chairman Brian Taylor said.

Taylor asked for exploratory research to check out the trails from a professional perspective.

Board member Chris Corder said the project could benefit the entire community.

"I really hope that we as a board can support something like this to try to find the avenues to make it happen," Corder said. "There's so much good to it and so little risk involved. Hopefully the right people can get on the page and make it easy for people that want to vol-

major updates to the vacation rental ordinance and other important land use issues," he said.

"If elected, I look forward to once again serving the citizens of Seaside as a city councilor," Morrisey said.

Samuel M. Condron, also known as Seamus McVey, will also seek the council seat. McVey facilitates a recovery clinic working with people with addictions, people with mental illnesses and homeless individuals.

Morrisey and McVey have both met filing certification requirements.

Other certified candidates include Tita Montero, the incumbent from Ward 2 and mayoral candidate Steve Wright, the councilor from Ward 1.



The dotted line indicates the Ridgeline Trail, proposed north of the high school and middle school campus.

The school district would not be liable for any cost of an accident during construction, Meyer said.

Financial sponsors who donate \$100 or more will have a stone engraved and placed at the coaches' patio. A live music fundraiser has been planned for September.

Susan Penrod, the district superintendent, asked if the proposed trail area was available and safe for the proposed uses. "I think it would be important to determine if any of that path is protected land," she said.

Costs for the due diligence process are yet to be determined, Penrod said.

Portions of the proposed area may have other limitations, school district building consultant Brian Hardebeck said. "I caution: Look at that map before moving forward."

unteer their time, money and efforts to make something like this happen."

Board members Corder, Taylor, Mark Truax and Brian Owen approved the Ridgeline Trail request pending due diligence on geotechnical issues and protected lands, with the district to cover the cost of the due diligence.

Michelle Hawken, Sandra Gomez and Shannon Swedenborg were absent.

Highlands: City reconsiders land swap

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Potential benefits would include added buildable land stock and redundancy of the water system. The site could serve as a helicopter landing area or dunes passageway in the event of a Cascadia Subduction Zone event.

According to terms of the August 2021 contingent land transfer agreement signed by the city and developers of Cottages at Gearhart LLC, two parcels would be turned over to the city, a 3-acre park parcel on the south side and a 1-acre parcel on top of the dune site.

The agreement calls for owners, a group of local builders and developers, to exchange the two lots outside Gearhart's urban growth boundary for use as a park and a new firehouse and resiliency station. In exchange the city would give 34 acres west of the city's no-build zone into the county, most of it unsuitable for development.

The developers could get about 22 to 25 houses into the property under county 1-acre zoning as opposed to the city's zoning of 10,000 square feet per lot. Under city zoning, the property could have up to 48 houses.

"The developers will be able to develop it in R-1 residential designation, and we would receive approximately five acres - approximately half for a public park and then the other half



Land off Highlands Lane in Gearhart that could be brought into the Gearhart urban growth boundary.

could be used for a public purpose," Watts said. "The city's not getting into the development game. We're getting property in order to benefit members of the public."

In addition, the land exchange would allow the city to loop pipes and add redundancy to the city's water system.

"It's a public health benefit," Watts said. "It would allow us to provide water outside of the city."

If the city is unable to bring the property into the urban growth boundary within one year from the signing on Aug. 23, the agreement would terminate unless both parties agree to an extension, Watts said.

The cons of that would be fewer houses, Watts said, with a potential loss of property tax income to the city of about \$80,000.

If councilors move forward with an extension of the agreement at the next meeting on Sept. 7, the state's Department of Land Conservation and Development would need to approve the deal.

"You, as the City Council, do not have final say on whether this happens because it has to be approved by the Department of Land Conservation Development," Watts said. "They have the final say regarding this and it's a technical decision that is made by them."

Whether the city decides to make the deal, developers will proceed with a minimum of 21 lots, Cottages at Gearhart investor Ryan Osburn said. With or without a deal with the city, he said, "We're going to develop it. There's no doubt."

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Morrisey: Will face McVey in race

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Solutions. He and his wife, Aimee, have two daughters, Emmy and Ava.

Morrisey won his first race for council in 2014, filling the two-year seat of Rafael "Stubby" Lyons.

Morrisey was reelected in 2016, running unopposed.

"I opted not to run for reelection in the fall of 2020 to spend more time with my wife and two young children," he said Aug. 18. "After a brief hiatus I was appointed to the Seaside Planning Commission in 2021."

During that time, he said, he learned more about the city's zoning ordinances and building codes.

"In a short period of time we've made great progress and pushed forward with