

Friday August 19, 2016



Good Friday afternoon everyone! It appears our summer weather has now arrived, and while it may cool down a little, it appears the warmer weather is here to stay. On that warm weather note, I would like to invite all of you to join the Roseburg Morning Rotary Club next Wednesday, August 24th, at 12:30 p.m. as they present the



City with a check representing the contributions that Rotary collected to help us with the community fundraising portion of our splash pad and playground project. The presentation will take place near the location of the new splash pad in Fir Grove near the soccer office and concession area. Mayor Rich will be there to accept the check on the City's behalf. Once again I would like to thank Dan Clark and the Morning Rotary as well as Stacey Crowe for chairing the fundraising activities.

Monday, Wayne Patterson from the Partnership, Kelly Morgan from Mercy/Partnership, and I met with representatives from Pac West and Western University to discuss our current progress and aspirations for an undergraduate/masters level medical college to support rural health care across Oregon and the west coast. We had a great conversation and they are interested in helping us evaluate our options to move forward. Western University of Health Sciences is a college of osteopathic medicine located in Lebanon and provides post masters doctoral studies. Their curriculum is a level above the programming we hope to offer, but they recently opened in a small rural Oregon community and are familiar with the opportunities and barriers that are faced when attempting to start up a new college facility and program. We will continue to have discussions with their leadership as we move forward in our attempt to identify an academic partner.



The Industrial Development Board (IDB) met Tuesday to discuss their current programs and impact of some of their funding. They discussed whether their processes, which they identified as somewhat "one size fits all" might need to be modified to address the current economic development landscape. The more traditional loan or grant to purchase land in the area and locate or relocate is becoming scarcer and funding for equipment/renovation in exchange for job expansion or creation seems to be the current trend. They will look at their process with County legal and finance staff to evaluate their current policies and procedures.

I was not be able to attend the entire IDB meeting as Brian Davis and I then attended a conference call with a representative from the railroad to further discuss moving forward with at least a partial level II environmental assessment on a portion of their former switchyard property adjacent to a local business. The thought is that there might be room for business expansion if CORP could surplus a portion of the easterly property and make it available for sale. We have been working with CORP through their various ownerships for over three years so now we need to see if we can make this happen.

We hope splitting the property into east and west options for the additional environmental review might make it more palatable. We will keep you posted as we attempt to move this economic development opportunity forward.

Later on Tuesday Brian and I attended a “Healthy Housing” discussion that is coordinated by the United Way. The group is trying to identify housing needs in the community at all levels, from very low income through market rate and beyond. Our first priority for the group is to develop real data around the community’s housing availability, housing needs and then to identify how to close the gap. Anecdotally, we understand that there is virtually a zero vacancy rate at all levels of income; however, there is not good verifiable information available. Community Development will conduct a housing land use inventory concurrently with the occupancy study as part of the department’s 2016-17 work plan. The information from both studies should be effective in providing guidance on how best to address some of the community’s housing needs. At the same time, we would like to develop accurate information regarding the unhoused population in the community and whether we can address some components of their housing needs throughout Douglas County.

Wednesday, the steering committee for the Arts Integration grant met to review the final draft report prepared by the consultant and began talking about the implementation phase of the project. The final report should be completed by the end of September. As you may recall, NeighborWorks received some grant funding as part of their NeighborWorks America Association. In addition, the City provided \$5,000 in economic development dollars and received a technical assistance grant from the Ford Family Foundation for an additional \$5,000. We have involved a number of people in the project representing non-profits, the private sector, downtown business owners as well as NeighborWorks Umpqua, the DC Museum, the Partnership, the Art Center, the Umpqua Makers Guild and the City. We look forward to continued work on what has become “Creative Roseburg” in the future.

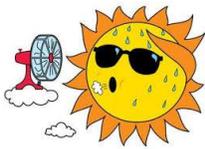
Over the past month or so, we have added a Police Department, Fire Department and City of Roseburg Facebook page as communications tools to help meet Council’s goals to better communicate with the community. The primary purpose of the pages is to push information out to the community and not to engage in anonymous dialogue. To date we have 128 page likes for the City, 377 page likes for Fire and 726 for Police.



Our current recruitment for a Firefighter position has reached 8,640 people with 73 shares. Our current recruitment post for a Police Officer has reached 2,350 in the last couple days. Both Police and Fire are now enrolled and using Flash Alert which allows for accurate news releases in both emergency and non-emergency situations. To sign up for Flash Alert on your own you can go to:

<https://www.flashalert.net/>.

This week we received a purchase offer for the Willis House. On the surface, it appears to be acceptable, with some very minor modifications. In accordance with the RMC, we will place this item on your agenda for the September 12th meeting to be considered and advertise for the necessary public hearing on that date. Much of your Monday Council meeting will be devoted to bid and contract awards by Council and then the Urban Renewal Board. We will also discuss the parks department reorganization. As I indicated last week, Ron Harker has updated the six year forecast to ensure that our suggested changes are sustainable and the change fits easily within our current plan. We look forward to discussing the reorganization and how it fits with our Council goals and plans for service provision in the future.



As I write this it appears we have about 20 more degrees to reach our high today. Stay cool and have a great weekend everyone. See you all Monday night.