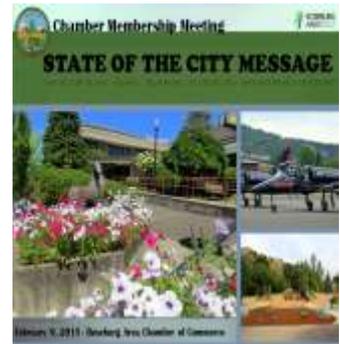


Friday February 6, 2015

Good Friday afternoon everyone! I hope you all had a great week. Please remember that Mayor Rich, Council President Ryan and I will be presenting the “summary” version of the State of the City Address at Monday’s Roseburg Area Chamber of Commerce membership meeting at the fairgrounds. The meeting starts 11:30 a.m. with lunch and will go until about 1:00 p.m. I hope you can all make it. We will have a table or two for staff and Council. This is a paid event, so if you haven’t let Koree know you are attending, we do not have a place saved for you. Please let Koree know if you want to attend and have not already contacted her.



On Monday I attended the Partnership meeting. The Board is drafting a work plan to provide direction to staff regarding next year’s priorities. The draft work plan is included in the attached Partnership Board packet. The Board is particularly interested in work force development for local business job retention and expansion. We have been very successful over the last few years helping local businesses stay and prosper. Attracting new large businesses has become a national and international competition, and with limited resources, we have not been very successful in this area. The Board asked our Director to consider working directly with “site selectors” rather than the more generic process of hiring “lead generators”. We hope to attract some site selectors to the area in the next six to twelve months.



Another important task for the next year will be completion of a grant related project outlining the strengths and weaknesses of our agri-tourism program. This is primarily a wine region related project that will identify the strengths that central Douglas County has in the wine tourism business and also what may be missing from our program, and how we might attract the missing link(s). Much of this work will be contracted out to industry professionals, but Partnership staff will have an active role in the project as well. We will also be working on the reauthorization of

enterprise zones currently in place and the Medical Education facility planning will continue.

Last Thursday, Partnership Director Alex Campbell and Chair Kelly Morgan presented an update to a number of local business leaders relating to our progress on the Med Ed project and where we hope to go next. We have reached two decision making points that could have led us to abandon the project, but all of our research and analysis has continued to be encouraging so we continue to move the project forward. We hope to form a more formal alliance with an existing accredited university and will provide council a formal update once the next decision point is reached.

In personnel news, Tyler Vancil was sworn in on Monday as the newest member of the Roseburg Police Department. Tyler is a graduate of North Douglas High School and the desire to return his family to Douglas County brought him to us from the Medford Police Department. In January, Waylon Faulkner started as our newest Fire Department employee. Waylon also has Douglas County roots, graduating from South Umpqua High School and completing coursework at UCC. Previously, Waylon worked with Douglas County Fire District #2 as an EMT. Internally, Shawn Tew was recently promoted to an operator position at our water treatment plant. Shawn has been with the City since 1995, has worked for both Street and Water Maintenance crews, and also brings experience from his time serving in the US Navy. The position at the treatment plant became available when Ben Hester retired after 31 years of service to the City. We are currently recruiting for a new Street Maintenance employee to re-staff due to Shawn's promotion.

The fire department hosted regional training from DPSST (Department of Public Safety Standards and Training) at the Public Safety Center this week. Seven departments from throughout Douglas County attended, obtaining the latest information on the process of certification for firefighters. Fire department staff recently secured a partnership with the local chapter of the American Red Cross to provide 150 smoke detectors to Roseburg area citizens. The tentative campaign/installation date is June 13th and volunteers are encouraged to participate in the program. Fire department staff will be participating with the installation. The regional manager (Michelle Taylor) is excited about the partnership. As this partnership progresses, future thoughts include a community fire prevention workshop and some other outreach services.

On Tuesday, Nikki and I were invited to Kyle Bailey's Inside Douglas County radio show. We talked primarily about the parks projects that were completed at Micelli and Eastwood Parks and the projects that will be moving forward this spring and summer including the Oak/Washington bridge project, the Oak/Washington downtown project and the Highway 138 corridor project. It is always nice to go on Kyle's show and talk about good things happening in Roseburg.

The HRRC met on Wednesday to hold two public hearings related to the proposed construction of two new homes in the Mill/Pine Historic District. Both homes will be constructed for the purposes of housing low income veterans as owner occupied dwellings. NeighborWorks Umpqua will be building the homes and then identifying appropriate buyers. They are applying for grants and working with volunteers to keep the cost of homes consistent with pricing in the neighborhood. The hearings were required for new construction in the historic district to insure consistency with the character of the neighborhood so new construction fits in. Both homes were approved with some minor restrictions. The HRRC will tour the Hamilton House on February 18th.

The Downtown Roseburg Association and a number of individual businesses downtown have asked us to consider placing smoking restrictions on City owned parking lots in the core area similar to the smoking restrictions we have placed on City park property. I think it is appropriate from a health and cleanliness standpoint. The properties currently

identified include the parking structure and walkway area, the City owned parking lot behind Downtown Fitness, the Flegel Center lot and the Phillips lot on Stephens Street. Council adopted a resolution in 2010 prohibiting the use of tobacco in City parks after significant public input and Council evaluation. I believe that restricting smoking on other City of Roseburg property open to the public for public use would be a logical extension of the prohibition, but I would appreciate your input before staff spends too much time on the issue. We may also need to update that “park rule” with the advent of e-cigarettes, legalized marijuana and other forms of smoking at the same time we look at this issue if you want to consider the proposed change.

Have a great weekend everyone. We will see some of you at 11:30 a.m. Monday and everyone else Monday evening!