

Friday March 6, 2015

Good Friday afternoon everyone. While I love the unseasonably warm weather, the lack of rain is starting to worry me a little. I know I shouldn't complain, but hey, I worry! Thanks to Mayor Rich and Pacific Power President Pat Reiten for their attendance at the ribbon cutting for the Blue Sky Challenge funded solar project at the Fir Grove Park concession stand. The ribbon cutting was the culmination of our community challenge that saw over 670 new Blue Sky participants sign up for alternative energy as part of their ongoing power service which brought our total subscriber numbers to over 1,200. The ceremony was very well attended and included great press coverage from our local radio, television and newspaper reporters. Thank you also to all of the Council members, City staff and Pacific Power staff who attended. Special thanks to Jim Maciariello and Ryan Herinckx for putting the project together and managing the contract and Brian Davis for his work throughout the Blue Sky Community Challenge. We also appreciate the support we received from the Mayor and Council during the project!



In addition to our ribbon cutting, a number of staff and local elected officials attended a "get acquainted" reception to meet Pat Reiten and Pacific Power senior staff Wednesday shortly after the ceremony. On Thursday I had an opportunity to again meet with Mr. Reiten, his staff and Alex Campbell at UCC's Danny Lang Center to discuss the Med Ed economic development project. They were very interested in the project and mentioned they are associated with a power utility in Des Moines, Iowa where we have been working with Mercy College. He is familiar with the impacts of the

college in that local community and indicated we should follow up with him as we move forward with our next step in the evaluation process.

On Wednesday, Councilor Fazio chaired the Parks Commission meeting where they primarily devoted the meeting to review the current fee schedule for park users. The Commission had a good discussion and scheduled a continuance to work with specific user groups at the next meeting. Currently user groups utilize our sports fields and open space through a reservation system operated by Parks Department Staff. It is truly amazing how many youth and adults participate in organized sports leagues in our community. What was quite surprising to staff and the Commission was the information relating to the makeup of those using our facilities. Based on review of the rosters, it appears that almost 70% of the organizations members reside outside the City of Roseburg and only about 30% reside inside the City. After consulting with the user groups, the Parks Commission will forward a recommendation to Council for inclusion in the annual fee resolution. Monday night, Council will consider a resolution authorizing staff to apply for a grant to pay for a portion of a combination spray ground/playground project at Fir Grove Park. The Commission reviewed the project at a prior meeting and recommended Council approval.



Wednesday afternoon Councilor Hawks chaired the Historic Resources Review Commission. The Commission reviewed SB 565 which if approved could provide some financial incentives through income tax credits to encourage historic renovations of properties on the register of historic buildings. After review, the Commission recommended sending a letter of support for the proposed bill. The Commission also reviewed a proposal from a property owner in the Mill/Pine area which they requested more information from.

Construction work will begin this coming Sunday night on the waterline that needs to be upgraded prior to the Highway 138 Corridor Project. The work will take place between 7:00 PM and 7:00 AM Sunday through Thursday. Reader boards have been placed throughout the project area for over a week informing citizens of the project and will be in place throughout the project construction. Cradar Enterprises, Inc. was awarded the contract and will start construction March 8<sup>th</sup> and will have 120 days to complete the project.



Thursday evening NeighborWorks Umpqua, SERVICE and the Downtown Roseburg Association unveiled their new branding and logo selection to a pretty large group of folks at the new Senior Center at the south end of Stephens and Pine. Mayor Rich and Councilors Hawks, Marks and Kaser were in the audience. The new brand "Heart of Roseburg" logo will be utilized in downtown and the neighborhood as part of a long term strategy to instill pride

in the neighborhoods and encourage cooperation between residents and businesses throughout downtown and south Roseburg. We will look forward to working with the neighborhood and downtown as they move forward with their efforts.

Have a great weekend everyone. See you all on Monday evening!

