

Friday April 29, 2016

Good Friday afternoon everyone. Thanks for starting your week with us at Council on Monday. It was a very productive meeting and we are moving forward with a number of initiatives that have been discussed at recent Council meetings and work study sessions. And by the way, your next meeting will be full of important topics as well, ranging from transportation funding (early at 6:00 p.m.) to ordinance discussions about some of the transient/crime issues we talked about recently. We will begin the transportation funding discussion at 6:00 p.m. in an effort to fully vet the needs and options with Council in a more detailed presentation than would be made during a regular agenda item. Transportation funding has been a Council goal/action item for many years and now that we have received our updated Pavement Condition Index Study, we will be prepared to provide you with current relevant conditions as well as a number of options being used or considered around the State.

In accordance with Council's adopted policy on potential uses of revenue sharing, the Budget Sub-Committee met this week to review eleven applications for funding. We received requests totaling \$77,357 and after review and discussion based on the criteria adopted by Council, the sub-committee recommended funding all or portions of five of the requests totaling the \$20,000. The recommendation will be part of the staff report during the public hearing on proposed uses of State Revenue Sharing on Tuesday's Budget Committee agenda. In accordance with the policy, the sub-committee makes a recommendation that ultimately will be under the authority of Council to approve.

The HTAG group met on Wednesday, with a couple hours set aside for their steering/oversight committee and a couple hours for larger community participation. Councilor Kaser and CDD Brian Davis attended the oversight portion and part of the community group while I attended the community participation portion. While we would like to generate more business community participation, the group seems very interested in helping solve or resolve a number of issues faced by the community and individuals who are truly in need of, and accepting of help. The installation of chemical toilets at three locations has been a positive first step in addressing some of the sanitation issues and HTAG continues to evaluate a number of options and opportunities ranging from access to showers and laundry services to mental health/addiction counseling to a day use drop-in center to transitional housing. They have lofty aspirations and a very positive outlook on the complexities surrounding this difficult social issue.

Thursday we received an update on the options going forward relating to the Med Ed college project that the EDC/City Council has invested in over the past couple of years.

It is still a very exciting opportunity for our community. There are scheduled opportunities with legislative committees in May to provide our statewide elected officials with information related to the lack of rural access to health care and our proposal to help solve this nationwide problem. Councilor Marks was in attendance at the meeting as well as representatives from the VA, CHI Mercy, Douglas County, local businesses and the Partnership to hear the update provided by Pac West, the Partnership's communications consultant. We have generated significant support from around southern Oregon and will continue to work hard to obtain the support we need to move this project forward.

I, along with Nikki Messenger and Barbara Taylor, am very excited to announce that the Morning Rotary group met Thursday evening to announce they have met their first major threshold in fundraising for the City of Roseburg spray park/playground project! In just four weeks they have raised almost \$45,000 and have a number of events planned with local businesses for the next six weeks to try to reach their very ambitious goal of \$75,000. This initial threshold will allow us to move forward with some foundation grant requests that should get us to our overall goal of just over \$600,000 including State grants and City funding alongside the generous support of our community. We can't say thank you enough to Morning Rotary and their fundraising leaders including Stacey Crowe, chair, and Dan Clark and Knut Torvik, team leaders. The Morning Rotary adopted this as their community project for 2016 and from the beginning shared our enthusiasm for this exciting parks and recreation improvement. THANK YOU!



It appears we are in for a very spring like weather weekend in front of us. Rain today, warming tomorrow and 80 plus degrees on Sunday. Have a great weekend everyone.