

Friday May 22, 2015

Good Friday afternoon everyone! By the time Sheila finishes the report for this week I will be well on my way to a long weekend with some friends near Seattle. This particular long weekend includes our national holiday to recognize and honor our country's veterans on Memorial Day, Monday May 25th. I know there are a number of activities going on in and around Roseburg and Douglas County and I hope many of you have an opportunity to share in some of them.

On Monday this week I attended the Roseburg Area Chamber of Commerce monthly membership meeting which included the graduation of the 2014-15 Project Leadership class as well as the "state of the timber industry" presented by Mr. Allyn Ford, owner of Roseburg Forest Products. As I reported last week, Project Leadership chose a City of Roseburg project as its community engagement project this year and completed the landscaping at the Guardians of Heroes/Fir Grove Park parking lot. I would again like to thank Project Leadership for their support in finishing this project.

On the state of the timber industry, Mr. Ford indicated that he expects continued slow to moderate growth in local industry revenues as housing starts nation-wide continue to increase. He also indicated that the strong dollar has changed the import/export mix for raw materials and that the remaining Douglas County timber/lumber business enterprises continue to compete in a global market place that is ever changing. For the most part, it appears that Mr. Ford believes the next two to four years should continue to be good and that we will see additional investment and re-investment in the infrastructure necessary to compete in that global market place.

Tuesday Nikki Messenger, Brian Davis and I met with representatives from Douglas County, ODOT and the State of Oregon's Regional Solutions team to talk about a potential "immediate opportunity fund" grant for ODOT or Douglas County that might be used to construct a road extension through a portion of the Douglas County Industrial Park which is near the northern limit of our Urban Growth Boundary Area. Immediate Opportunity Funds are generally used as an economic development tool to make sure that new business locations or business expansions can take place with an appropriate investment in necessary transportation infrastructure to serve the community's and the industry's needs. While our role in this opportunity is limited, the potential economic development opportunity is exciting. We will continue to provide staff support for the proposal and work with the County as requested.

On the Public Works front, bids for the Highway 138 project opened on Thursday. We will provide you some updated information next week on that. The eagle scout project

at the corner of Stephens and Diamond Lake Blvd is finally nearing completion thanks to the efforts of engineering tech Ryan Herinckx who has shepherded the project to fruition.



Public Works crews will begin removing the Stewart Park Multi-use path on Tuesday, May 26th. LTM is expected to begin work on the reconstructed path the following week. We received three statements of qualifications this week for the Stewart Parkway Realignment Project design completion. Construction of the second phase of the Apron Rehabilitation project at the airport is scheduled to begin on Tuesday May 26th and will be completed in July. Staff is in process of scheduling a pre-construction meeting with the contractor for the Oak/Washington Project for next week. Once that is completed we will work with folks Downtown on spreading the word about construction scheduling and impacts. We are out to bid on Charles Gardiner Park path reconstruction, an Indianola Storm Drainage project, the 2015 Slurry Seals, and the Stephens Street Overlay project (Stewart Parkway to Newton Creek).

In Community Development, we have recently taken in plans on some relatively large projects including Coastal Farm Supply's new location. Staff is working diligently to get that through what has become a bit of an unorthodox process. We hope to work with Coastal to move forward in a timely manner and resolve some of the issues we notified them of during the pre-application process a couple of years ago.



We also received word from Kuebler's this week that they will be demolishing the existing building (after their one-year timeframe) and likely selling the property as opposed to rebuilding. They have until June 4 to complete their demolition work.



I also wanted to let you all know that long time Fire Marshal Tony DiMare has given his notice of retirement effective the end of May. Tony was originally hired as a police officer at RPD back in 1989 and joined the fire service in 1998. He has been the Fire Marshal since 1999. Tony is not leaving the profession, however, as his retirement from the City is a result of an opportunity to work with the VA here in Roseburg. We wish Tony good luck in his new adventure. This retirement will lead to some transition in the overall Fire Department organizational structure which we are currently working through. We will take advantage of this opportunity to closely review our operational and organizational efficiencies and prepare a structure that will allow us to meet the community's needs as well as the City's needs.

We will not see some of you until our next Council meeting on June 8th, so have a fabulous and safe long weekend.