

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Richard Meyers, City Manager

SUBJECT: Friday Update

DATE: October 22, 2021

Sidewalk Ordinances

Staff did quick research on the history of the sidewalk ordinances in Cottage Grove. The current provision regarding the responsibility of the sidewalk maintenance goes back to at least 1964. Copies of the past ordinances are attached to the Friday Update. Further research and review of amendments to the Municipal Code would be much more time consuming and would not affect the responsibility for maintaining sidewalks since maintenance is not subject to grandfather provisions.

It has suggested that the maintenance responsibility of sidewalks would be grandfathered. A grandfather clause is an exemption that allows persons or entities to continue certain uses, structures or improvements that were approved before the adoption of new rules that would create conditions for new uses or improvements. Once the existing use or improvement ends or is replaced the grandfather provisions also end. Often they are labeled as non-conforming uses. Examples of a grandfather use or improvement would be a residential house that was built in 1910 in what is not identified as a Commercial District through landuse regulations established after 1970. The single family residential use would be a grandfathered use that could continue as a non-conforming use in the Commercial District because the house was built before the Commercial District (or zone) was created. If the residential house use ceases to exist, the result of a fire or was converted to an office building, it would not be able to be reconstructed for use as a residential house. With sidewalks, a grandfather clause could apply to the width of a sidewalk. A sidewalk constructed under regulations requiring a 4 foot width would be allowed to continue as a 4 foot sidewalk when the regulations change to requiring a 5 foot sidewalk. However, if the 4 foot sidewalk is removed or reconstructed the grandfathered width would cease to exist and any new sidewalk would have to comply with the new regulations and be constructed to a 5 foot width.

Grandfather clauses typically do not apply to regulations regarding the actions of individuals or entities. Actions would be either functions or duties that are allowed, prohibited or required. Actions typically do not have the permanency or the durability to be grandfathered. Each action would be new and as rules or regulations change future actions would be subject to the new regulations. Just because someone had been in Coiner Park in 1999 and smoked in the park, doesn't mean they are grandfathered to smoke in the park now. The maintenance responsibility of sidewalks is an action and even if a sidewalk was constructed in 1910 and the regulation regarding maintenance responsibility was enacted in 1914 all future maintenance actions would be subject to the 1914 regulations or subsequent regulations in the future.

Halloween Hootinanny

On Friday, October 29th Bohemia Park will be teeming with ghosts, ghouls, goblins, monsters, super heroes, creatures and other characters as the Halloween Hootinanny makes its way into the

Park from 3:00 to 6:00 pm. The Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Cottage Grove and the City are sponsoring the event to create a safer environment for Trick or Treating as we try to pull out of the pandemic. Businesses from throughout the community will be there to pass out treats. City staff is excited to bring back the annual Pumpkin Decorating Contest and have the pumpkins on display in the park. So join us for the Halloween Hootinanny in Boo-hemia Park on Friday next week. Hopefully next year the traditional Halloween Howl will be able to return back downtown.

Vaccine Clinic

The Cottage Grove Chamber of Commerce is hosting a vaccine clinic in the Chamber Office at 836 E. Main Street on Saturday, October 23rd from 11:00 to 3:00 pm. The clinic is open to everyone in the community. No booster shots will be available at the clinic.

Police Department “Coffee with a Cop”

On Thursday, October 21st, officers, K9 Marco and command staff gathered at McDonald's to chat with citizens at "Coffee with a Cop". The department members had the opportunity to have one-on-one conversations with citizens in a relaxed and informal gathering. The department would like to co-host another "Coffee with a Cop" with other local restaurants. Please contact the Police Department Administration.

New Police Staff

The department welcomed two new Police Dispatchers in the last two months: Tisha Fetter and Aaron Ashenfelter. In addition, new officer Ryan Blalack has been hired and will start in November.

Annual Leaf Pick-Up

Fall is in the air, the temperatures are getting cooler, rain is starting to fall and tree leaves are changing color and starting to drop from the trees. Beginning next Monday the first round of leaf pickup starts. City staff will be working to pick up residential piles of leaves placed in approved areas along City streets.

Residents are allowed to place leaves on City streets in street parking sites near the street gutter without blocking it. Please don't block bike and traffic lanes or place leaves on streets with no on-street parking. There is a leaf dump site at the Row River Water Treatment Plant at 3300 Row River Road or in the pull-out lanes on River Road. Do not put your leaves in plastic bags. Place only leaves in piles; no branches, shrub prunings, blackberry vines, lawn clippings, rocks, metal or other debris.

Additional leaf pickup dates are November 15th through the 19th and December 13th through the 17th. Piling up the tree leaves helps keep them out of the City stormwater drainage system, allowing the rain to flow out of the City without flooding properties. For additional information or questions regarding the leaf pickup please call the City Public Works and Development Department at (541) 942-3349.

Effluent Reuse Piping Arrives

This week 1,960 feet of purple treated effluent reuse pipe arrived at the City shop. The City Utility crew will be working on installing the new pipe to transfer reuse water from the Wastewater Treatment Plant down Douglas Avenue to Trailhead Park. The new pipeline will allow the City to switch from using treated drinking water for irrigation at Trailhead and Bohemia Parks to using treated effluent reuse water from the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Using the treated effluent will reduce the amount of effluent returned to the river and help the City maintain compliance with the DEQ discharge permit. It will also eliminate the use of treated drinking water to irrigate the parks, reducing the amount of water pulled from the Row River during the summer months.



Cottage Grove Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan Update

Last week the selection committee for the Cottage Grove Pedestrian Bicycle Plan recommended HDR Engineering Inc. to ODOT as the top ranked consultant for the project. The selection committee consisted of ODOT Project Manager David Helton, Lane County Senior Transportation Planner Becky Taylor, Jake Boone, Ryan Sisson, and Faye Stewart.

ODOT has given Notice of Intent to Award to HDR Engineering Inc. Contract negotiations are anticipated to be complete by November 12, 2021. Provided a contract is completed, work on the plan will start in January 2022. Ryan Sisson will assist David Helton in managing the project. The plan is estimated to be completed early 2023. Please watch for future updates and requests for comments throughout next year. Community involvement will be key to creating a successful plan that represents the needs of all our community.

Cottage Grove Affordable Housing Implementation Plan Update

On Monday, Senior Planner Eric Mongan and Public Works & Development Director Faye Stewart met with Beth Goodman and Becky Hewitt from EcoNorthwest to kickoff discussions regarding the Affordable Housing Implementation Plan. EcoNorthwest is the consultant for the project. They hope to start work on the plan in early January 2022 once the contract with DLCD is approved. EcoNorthwest will be reviewing current programs the City uses to incentivize housing such as the Multiple Unit Property Tax Exemption (MUPTE). They will make recommendations on other programs and potential Development Code changes to promote affordable housing. The plan is expected to be ready for City Council review in late 2022.

Update on New Construction in Cottage Grove

The Building Permit Division has been very busy permitting new construction projects in the City. Construction has started on a new Popeye's restaurant next to Burger King. Verizon Wireless is building a new store next to the Pink House on Main Street. Rogers and Sons is building a new flooring store next to their current store at 14th and Main Street. Harrison Village Apartments on South 10th Street has started construction of 80 new apartments. Construction on the first building of 8 apartments on North Gateway will be starting soon. This week the Planning Commission approved phase 1 of a cottage cluster housing project at South 17th and Main Street. There are 7 new homes under construction in the Sunrise Development off North M Street with 5 additional

homes throughout the City. Lastly 14 new town homes are under construction on Arthur Avenue. This has been a very busy summer for Planning, Building, Engineering and Utility staff.

I-5 Interchange Landscape Improvements Project

The contractor working on the Interchange Landscape Improvements project, Milroy Golf Systems, Inc., has substantially completed the irrigation piping and landscaping at the I-5 Interchange. A short punch-list of remaining tasks should be completed within the next couple of weeks before the irrigation system is fully operational.

To recap the project's intent, the new irrigation system will discharge recycled wastewater to the grassy and vegetated areas of the I-5 interchange, keeping them green throughout the summer. However, by eliminating wastewater discharges to the river during the warmer months of the year, the City will continue to adhere to its regulatory responsibilities as well as proactively protecting the environment.



Weekly Update #54 Southmayd Home Build Project *(By Jason Bush)*

Jim Johnson, Customer Service Representative for Hamilton Drywall Products received approval to donate the tape, mud, corners, and texturing compound, and Donnie, Manager of the Springfield Knez have loaded up one of Donnie's generally scheduled delivery trucks with our materials. Knez will store it as well as our sheetrock until we need it. Thanks to Knez & Hamilton.

The weather is the big concern for the Southmayds and myself as it's hard to keep the house heated, so consequently, they congregate around the fireplace in the front room—just below the failing roof! We have the waterline trench dug out, and Brothers Plumbing is trying to get it in today, as it's preventing any heavy trucks of delivering rock, sand, and Mud until we get the trench inspected and backfilled. Nolan will fill it in and grade the road enough to continue getting trucks back there. We estimated another 20 yards of gravel for the back porches, and approximately another 30 yards of sand and then 20 yards of gravel to complete the garage slab.

I would like to start thinking about the flatwork to help keep us out of the mud, but also so we can get the dog bath installed in the garage. Next Saturday, I'm hoping to be at the Southmayds doing some clean up. Lots of little piles of construction debris that needs hauled off, and the yard debris has built up a little again, and needs rounded up for a dump run.

I'm still trying to reach Superior Electric to come out and relocate a couple light switches, to the other side of the front door. The Stove Doctor should have the woodstove pipe in soon, and Pacific Northwest Air should be by to modify the LPG line for the room heater. That's it and were free to insulate. I know Dale, owner of Insul 8 is fitting us in their schedule, so it could be any day.

Jayson & Misty are looking at floor coverings this week and noting down the manufacturer's information. They prefer a floor covering that withstands large service dogs. They are leaning towards the engineered snap together type stuff. I'm going to start with Imperial Flooring America.

Travis Prine, Manager of Northwest Siding Contractors of Eugene, has his crew out at the Southmayds this week, and they are going to town on the job. They have also agreed to install the front door, garage side door (Once built up enough), the ceilings at the covered porches, and waterproof the bottom portion of the porch posts. They are wrapping the posts to match the house. They are going out of their way to take care of the little things, and their big job of installing the siding looks excellent. They pay attention to the details for sure. We thank Travis, and the whole crew, who I plan to introduce in next week's update. See the progress pictures below.



Quote of the Week:

"Honesty is the fastest way to prevent a mistake from turning into a failure."

~James Altucher~