

COTTAGE GROVE CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 28, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Jeff Gowing called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

ROLL CALL

City Recorder Mindy Roberts called the roll. The following were

PRESENT IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS:	Mayor Gowing, Councilors Candace Solesbee, Chalice Savage, Mike Fleck, Jon Stinnett, Greg Ervin, and Kenneth Michael Roberts
PRESENT VIA GOTOMEETING:	None
COUNCIL ABSENT:	None
STAFF PRESENT IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS:	City Manager Richard Meyers, Assistant to the City Manager Jake Boone, City Recorder Mindy Roberts, Public Works & Development Director Faye Stewart, Police Chief Scott Shepherd, Finance Director Roberta Likens, and Civil Engineer Ryan Sisson.
STAFF PRESENT VIA GOTOMEETING:	City Planner Eric Mongan
CITY ATTORNEY:	None
MEDIA PRESENT:	Damien Sherwood, The Sentinel and Cameron Reiten, KNND Radio

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

(a) Public Safety Telecommunicators Week Proclamation

Mayor Gowing read the Public Safety Telecommunicators Week Proclamation aloud and presented it to Dispatcher Becky Erbes.

(b) Drowning Prevention Month Proclamation

Mayor Gowing read the Drowning Prevention Month Proclamation aloud and presented it to Pool Manager Joshua Norton, South Lane Early Learning Center Heather Murphy, and Life Guards James and Cassidy.

ITEMS ADDED TO THE AGENDA

None

APPEARANCE OF INTERESTED CITIZENS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Bruce Kelsh 78340 Halderman Road, Cottage Grove Oregon congratulated the City on being designated Tree City, for receiving the grant for the Tree Giveaway on Saturday, and for the planting of 25 Cherry Trees at Trailhead Park. He shared that there are seven Japanese Cherry Tree Festivals outside of Japan and said he wonders if Cottage Grove could be the eighth. He said Salem, Oregon is one of the seven locations and they have 151 Cherry Trees, and if everyone kicked in a tree here and there Cottage Grove could be one of the locations.

Michelle Thurston 925 W Main Street, Cottage Grove Oregon said she is speaking in support of the proposed Community Health Center. She addressed concerns that were expressed at the previous Council meeting in regards to types of service that would be provided and who the services would be provided to. She said the Clinic is something that the community desperately needs and health care should be available for all people.

Johanna Zee 1386 Cottonwood, Cottage Grove, Oregon addressed the presentation regarding the Community Health Center. She said no one doubts that more services are needed for people in this community, the question is what type of services, what is effective, and what has worked. She said she is concerned about the organizations that are involved in the proposed Clinic and has discovered that all of them have a common thread of an ideology that is promoting equity, diversity, and inclusion. She said they are all talking about systemic racism, gender transition, and gender neutral bathrooms because they are funded with grants that have criteria and conflict of interest is prevalent in this community. She said just because you have services doesn't mean people who need them are going to take them and it is misleading to say that students are going to be able to learn a skill from this center and make good money.

Kylah Harris 81086 Sears Road, Cottage Grove, Oregon said the vaccine is not safe and she described her personal experience with medical complications, emergency room visits, hospitalizations, and pain suffered as a result of getting the vaccine. She said if the clinic is promoting the vaccine she wants people to know the risk.

Councilor Mike Fleck called a Point of Order and asked the audience to refrain from clapping on either side of issues.

Kylah Harris used explicit language.

Mayor Gowing asked her to leave the Council Chambers.

Linda Olson Girard Ave, Cottage Grove, Oregon said she came to Council to speak about the Clinic and the comments made by the previous speaker had changed her mind. She said she has family members who have had complications from the vaccine and it breaks her heart to hear of young people experiencing problems. She said she has heard that there are not enough volunteers to run the shower facility and if the City is focused on taking care of the homeless we should use some of the funding to pay custodial staff to help them. She said the homeless deserve respect and the City is more focused on putting \$100,000 to South Lane Medical Clinic where they are going to mandate vaccinations. She said an article in the paper indicated the City is eliminating items under Chapter 12.24.020 to allow the homeless to live in our parks and in the parking lots, but nobody is talking about if the City is going to provide toilets for them. She said as a tax payer she wants to know that she is not paying for hazardous waste cleanup and the City should invest in the basic amenities. She said the Health Clinic is a necessary service but it is the wrong placement right next to the High School. She added that there are solutions out there, the City is just not hearing them and some of the short cuts being taken without looking at the long-haul is a sad venture. She said this is our community and we need to take it back, people are talking and they are saying enough is enough.

Jan Ogsbury 1350 Merrill Lane, Cottage Grove, Oregon said there are a lot of accusations being thrown around in the community and she thinks it is shameful. She said she is in support of the Health Clinic.

Hearther Murphy 1042 Chestnut, Cottage Grove Oregon thanked Joshua for the Pool Proclamation. She said currently there are nearly 30 children learning basic life safety and some are choosing to continue on and learn swim strokes. She said this is the way that you build community and is an inclusion of people who have never had the opportunity.

Duncan Newbery 80433 Sears Rd, Cottage Grove, Oregon said he received a talking point memo from a group called wethepeople.org and he disagrees with a lot of the statements. He said his comments are lengthy and he would like to provide them in writing. He said the answer is to address the problems and offer services to people as we would want services offered to us if we were in the same position. He said we are blessed to live in a land of plenty and the fact there are people who are homeless and hungry is not an indictment of their character for being in need, but ours for failing to help them. He said he urges City Council to move forward with these services and move beyond fear and judgment.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

CONSENT AGENDA

- (a) Approval of March 7, 2022 Work Session Minutes
- (b) Approval of March 11, 2022 Agenda Meeting Minutes
- (c) Approval of March 14, 2022 City Council Minutes
- (d) National Library Week Proclamation

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILOR FLECK AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR ROBERTS TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA

An audience member raised her hand and asked if she could speak at the meeting.

Mayor Gowing explained that she did not sign up and he has a motion on the table.

Mayor Gowing called the vote.

The vote on the motion was as follows:

VOTE	Councilor Roberts	Councilor Stinnett	Councilor Savage	Councilor Fleck	Councilor Solesbee	Councilor Ervin	Mayor Gowing
AYES	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
NAYS							
ABSTAIN							

RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES

- (a) Resolution Authorizing Support for an Oregon Parks and Recreation Department Local Government Grant Application for Bohemia Park north Entry Plaza Splash Pad

Public Works & Development Director Faye Stewart explained that in October of 2021 the City supported an application to the Economic and Development Administration (EDA) for a grant opportunity to fund capital improvements at Bohemia Park. He said this item is a grant application for \$450,000 to fund the water tower and interpretive water feature and it could be built as a standalone improvement regardless of the outcome of the EDA grant. If the EDA grant is fully funded, the Local Government Grant will be considered an additional match to the EDA grant. He said the City match of the Engineering and Planning Staff support, Utility and Permit fees is estimated at \$50,000. He said it is necessary at this time that Council adopt a Resolution authorizing support for submittal of the grant application to the Oregon Parks and Recreation Local Government Grant Program for the Bohemia Park, and added that the deadline for submittal is April 1, 2022.

Mayor Gowing asked the City Recorder for the Resolution number.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILOR FLECK AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR ERVIN TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2066

The vote on the motion was as follows:

VOTE	Councilor Roberts	Councilor Stinnett	Councilor Savage	Councilor Fleck	Councilor Solesbee	Councilor Ervin	Mayor Gowing
AYES	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
NAYS							
ABSTAIN							

Mayor Gowing announced Resolution 2066 carried.

- (b) Resolution Establishing Appropriations within the General Fund, Community Development Department, for the Expenditure of an Unforeseen Specific Purpose Grant from the Arbor Day Foundation

Finance Director Roberta Likens said the City has received a grant in the amount of \$6,700 from the Arbor Day Foundation made possible by the Serendipity Foundation and it is to be used specifically to provide funding for the City’s tree planting and distribution project. She said this allows for the purchase of 900 trees to be given to the residents of Cottage Grove and 100 larger stature trees to be purchased and planted on public property. She added that in order to spend the money lawfully the City must comply with the requirements of local budget law and it is Staff’s recommendation that City Council adopt a resolution to establish appropriations for the use of the grant funds.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILOR ERVIN AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR FLECK THAT CITY COUNCIL ADOPT RESOLUTION 2067 TO ESTABLISH APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE USE OF THE GRANT FUNDS.

Mayor Gowing asked if there was any discussion, seeing none he called the vote.

The vote on the motion was as follows:

VOTE	Councilor Roberts	Councilor Stinnett	Councilor Savage	Councilor Fleck	Councilor Solesbee	Councilor Ervin	Mayor Gowing
AYES	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
NAYS							
ABSTAIN							

Mayor Gowing announced Resolution 2067 carried.

BUSINESS FROM THE CITY COUNCIL

(a) Warren H. Daugherty Aquatic Center Report

City Manager Richard Meyers introduced Pool Manager Joshua Norton to present the Annual Aquatic Center Report.

Joshua Norton shared a slide presentation outlining the key focus areas of Education, Recreation, Fitness, Therapy, and Competition for the Aquatic Center. He discussed each of the focus areas and highlighted the programs, attendance and accomplishments in each. He said the Aquatic Center is also actively reaching out to the community to create relationships and is starting to work with Community Partners such as the Early Learning Center, Eugene Skin Divers, Cottage Grove Physical Therapy, Cottage Grove Aqua Lions, and the Tamarack Pool. He added that they now have 23 certified life guards and 19 of them are under 18 years of age and are doing a wonderful job. He said Cottage Grove should be very aware of the youth, the work that they are doing, the community that they are building and he hopes that the City of Cottage Grove will continue to be a major partner.

Councilor Ervin complimented Joshua and said he appreciates that he is in this role utilizing the new pool.

Councilor Roberts complimented Joshua and said his enthusiasm is wonderful and that it was the best pool report the City has ever had.

Councilor Stinnett said the statement made in the presentation, “We will always decide to be ambitious” was powerful and that he was always in support of renovating the pool and the energy that has been brought into the new facility has paid dividends. He said he has always appreciated the empowerment of the young people at the pool and asked when the recreational swim times are.

Joshua gave the operating times and had schedules available.

Councilor Fleck said the presentation was great and noted the positive impact on the amount of people that are brought to the community as a result of the pool.

Councilor Savage said the City is lucky to have the pool and Joshua as the Pool Manager.

Councilor Solesbee said she is grateful that Joshua is doing a great job at the pool and that young teens are involved.

Mayor Gowing thanked Joshua for a great presentation.

(b) Chamber of Commerce Report

City Manager Richard Meyers introduced the Chamber of Commerce CEO Shauna Neigh to present the Chamber of Commerce Report. He added that one percent of the four percent Transient Room Tax is one of the funding mechanisms for the Chamber of Commerce. He said in the 2019-20 fiscal year the Transient Room Tax dropped \$20,000 from 2018-19 and in the year 2020-21 it dropped an additional \$16,000 and even with the Village Green being gone the Transient Room Tax has rebounded and we are currently \$3,879 ahead of the total for 2019-20. He added that the City of Eugene will no longer be facilitating the collection and distribution of the Transient Room Tax and instead they will be using the Department of Revenue and the City of Cottage Grove will need to switch by July 1st.

Chamber of Commerce CEO Shauna Neigh shared a slide presentation recapping membership numbers, website and Visitor Center statistics, Chamber Events including the Halloween Hootenanny, Cottage Grove Christmas Kick Off and the Shop Small Campaign. She presented the names of the 2022 Board and said this year they are updating Policies and Procedures, By-Laws, and making some changes to Concerts in the Park by creating a committee that will manage the event. She added that the Chamber of Commerce Awards Banquet will be held May 21st, and that she brought copies of the Cottage Grove Visitors & Newcomers Guide and the Eugene Cascades and Coast Visitors Guide.

Councilor Savage thanked Shauna for all of the work that she has done to help keep businesses going during the pandemic.

Councilor Solesbee thanked Shauna for helping to make businesses thrive during the shut downs.

Councilor Roberts told Shauna that her enthusiasm for the community is great and that Cottage Grove is lucky to have her.

Councilor Fleck told Shauna to let the City know how they can help support the Chamber.

Councilor Ervin said he appreciates having the local businesses and loves to see things grow and appreciates her efforts. He asked from polling people at the Visitors Center, what is bringing people to our community.

Shauna replied that 9 out of 10 people are coming here to see the Covered Bridges and mainly because they do not realize everything that Cottage Grove has to offer.

Councilor Stinnett thanked Shauna for her efforts and energy. He said he is excited about the future of this community and he can tell that she is too.

Mayor Gowing thanked Shauna for always taking the time to answer his questions.

(c) Historic Preservation Commission Appointments

City Planner Eric Mongan asked the Chair of the Subcommittee Councilor Savage to present the recommendation.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILOR SAVAGE AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR ERVIN TO REAPPOINT TARA SUE HUGHART AND APPOINT THE APPLICANT WILLIAM CHRISTIANSEN FOR THE REMAINING TERM TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2024.

Mayor Gowing asked if there were any questions.

Councilor Roberts asked if there was still one seat unoccupied on the Commission and if we are planning to fill it.

City Planner Eric Mongan replied yes, the City will repost the advertisement and make contact with the existing Commissioners to see if they know of any interested candidates.

Mayor Gowing called the vote.

The vote on the motion was as follows:

VOTE	Councilor Roberts	Councilor Stinnett	Councilor Savage	Councilor Fleck	Councilor Solesbee	Councilor Ervin	Mayor Gowing
AYES	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
NAYS							
ABSTAIN							

(d) Council Review of Two- Year Streatery Pilot Study

Civil Engineer Ryan Sisson provided the results of the Streatery Pilot Study to Council and said this presentation is to assist them in evaluating whether to cancel or extend the Streatery Program. He highlighted that 71% of respondents affirmed that the program should continue, 11 respondents indicated that it should not, and 4 responses expressed that it should continue with changes. Ryan said that Staff recommends that Council approve the Streatery Program to continue for the existing three Streateries.

Councilor Fleck commented that his original concern was that a car would stray into the Streateries and harm somebody. He commended Staff for building a sturdy Streatery and placing bollards in front of them. He said he is still concerned about parking and would like to see the program continue for another year and then give an opportunity for other businesses to apply rather than grandfathering the original three businesses in for years. He added that he would not want to see more than one Streatery on each block.

Councilor Ervin said he thinks the program should go forward and he likes the idea of no more than one per block with a total of three and a lottery so that everyone who wants one gets a chance.

Councilor Savage thanked Ryan for all the work that has been done in the study and said that the Streateries are beautifully made. She said she has been asked when they will be going back up.

Ryan Sisson credited the Building and Maintenance Staff for building the Streateries.

Councilor Savage said there are issues with parking downtown and believes it is not a parking problem but an enforcement problem.

Public Works and Development Director Faye Stewart said the dates for the Streatory Program is March 15th to October 31st and if businesses are prepared, the crew could work on getting them set up providing that Council extends the program.

City Manager Richard Meyers reported that both of the Community Service Officer positions are vacant and the City is working on getting volunteers until the positions are filled.

Councilor Solesbee thanked Ryan for all of his work and said the Streateries have received a great response from the community.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILOR FLECK AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR ERVIN TO EXTEND THE PROGRAM FOR TWO YEARS WITH THE EXISTING BUSINESSES AND THEN OPEN UP A LOTTERY FOR OTHERS TO APPLY IN SUBSEQUENT YEARS.

Mayor Gowing asked if there was any further discussion, seeing none he called the vote.

The vote on the motion was as follows:

VOTE	Councilor Roberts	Councilor Stinnett	Councilor Savage	Councilor Fleck	Councilor Solesbee	Councilor Ervin	Mayor Gowing
AYES	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
NAYS							
ABSTAIN							

(e) Recommendation to Award Contract for Manufacture and Delivery of Clarifier Equipment

Civil Engineer Ryan Sisson informed Council that one of the existing clarifiers is 39 years old and has been inspected by West Yost Associates Consultants indicating that it is in need of overall rehabilitation and the mechanism is in need of replacement.

He said the City invited clarifier mechanism manufacturers to submit competitive bids for the replacement clarifier mechanism by March 22, 2022 and three bids were received. He explained that each bid has two options, one for a stainless steel center column and the other for a coated carbon steel column and comparing the two numbers helped the City determine the cost effectiveness of deciding between the two options. Ryan said that the coated carbon steel may save the City money in the short term and the stainless steel center column is expected to last longer. He added that each bid contained an escalation clause, noting the volatility of steel prices that could cause their own prices for steel to significantly increase. Ryan said that the City has determined stainless steel is the most cost effective, the escalation clause offered by ClearStream provides the least risk and Staff recommends that Council award the clarifier rehabilitation phase one mechanism contract to the qualified bidder ClearStream Environmental in the amount of \$433,770 and authorize the City Manager to execute the contract and all related documents.

Councilor Fleck commended Staff for the diligence in trying to keep prices down.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILOR FLECK AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR ROBERTS TO AWARD THE CLARIFIER REHABILITATION PHASE ONE MECHANISM CONTRACT TO THE QUALIFIED BIDDER CLEARSTREAM ENVIRONMENTAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$433,770 AND AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE CONTRACT AND CONFIRM ALL ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS SUBJECT TO THE EXPIRATION OF THE PROTEST PERIOD OR RESOLUTION OF ANY TIMELY FILED PROTESTS.

Mayor Gowing announced there is a motion with a second and called for discussion.

Councilor Ervin asked what the material of the current clarifier is.

Ryan Sisson said he believes that it is coated steel.

Councilor Ervin asked how many years we have gotten out of the current clarifier.

Ryan Sisson said 39 years.

Councilor Ervin asked 39 years with no maintenance.

Public Works and Development Director Faye Stewart said it was less than ten years ago that the clarifier was drawn down and general maintenance was done to the mechanism. He said the issue is that the drive mechanism is worn out and you cannot get parts for the motors and the various different parts. He said that he cannot state how much maintenance has been done over the years and it is a fabricated steel product not stainless steel.

Councilor Ervin asked if it is the same carbon coated steel, why would there be an estimate of maintenance every ten years at \$50,000.

Ryan said the Consultant indicated that is standard practice for maintenance of coated steel.

Councilor Ervin said he must be missing something.

Faye said that he has been here five years and cannot say whether it has been sand blasted and coated every ten years and that it was taken down and extensive maintenance was done approximately nine years ago.

Councilor Ervin said he heard it has been running nonstop.

Faye said they operate 24 hours a day/7 days a week and are drawn down once a year to clean them. He added that this clarifier has not been drawn down for five years because the floor of the clarifier floats upward and there is concern that it would be able to be restarted without the floor crumbling.

Assistant to the City Manager Jake Boone offered a comparison of using life expectancy to help explain why some may last longer than others.

Councilor Ervin said if the decision making process is that we are saving money in the long run by going with something that requires less maintenance that has higher upfront costs, and asked how is that really the case if our current system didn't require that.

Ryan replied to Councilor Ervin that his concerns are important and added that the current Plant Manager is proactive with operations and maintenance of the plant and is impressed with what plant staff is committed to doing in the future.

Mayor Gowing asked if there was any further discussion, seeing none he called the vote.

The vote on the motion was as follows:

VOTE	Councilor Roberts	Councilor Stinnett	Councilor Savage	Councilor Fleck	Councilor Solesbee	Councilor Ervin	Mayor Gowing
AYES	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
NAYS							
ABSTAIN							

(f) Council Approve Purchase of 1.37 Acres of Land from Weyerhaeuser by Quitclaim Deed

Public Works and Development Director Faye Stewart said in 2021 Council authorized making an offer to Weyhaeuser for this property. He said the City made an offer of \$5,000 with the intent in developing a walking trail that would connect from 6th Street to Hayes Ave. He said the Title Company traced deed transfers from the time the parcels were established and was able to locate all but two of the eight transfers. He said because there is a gap in the title transfers and the Title Company is reluctant to issue Title Insurance, Staff is asking Council to authorize the purchase of 1.37 acres to Weyerhaeuser by Quitclaim Deed for the property. He added it is

his understanding that the only individuals that could challenge the purchase would be the owners of OP& E Railroad and Bohemia Lumber Company at the time, and those owners are deceased and there is not much risk in seeing a claim.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILOR FLECK AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR SOLESBEE TO ACCEPT THE QUITCLAIM PURCHASE OF 1.37 ACRES FROM WEYHAEUSER AND AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO SIGN ALL NECESSARY DOCUMENTS.

Mayor Gowing asked if there was any discussion, seeing none he called the vote.

The vote on the motion was as follows:

VOTE	Councilor Roberts	Councilor Stinnett	Councilor Savage	Councilor Fleck	Councilor Solesbee	Councilor Ervin	Mayor Gowing
AYES	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
NAYS							
ABSTAIN							

(g) Budget Committee Recruitment

Finance Director Roberta Likens said there are two full term vacant positions on the Budget Committee and in order to facilitate the selection process Council should select a Council Committee to interview the applicants and make a recommendation to City Council.

Mayor Gowing appointed Councilor Fleck, Councilor Savage as members and Councilor Ervin as chair.

(h) Concerns from Council

Councilor Savage said she was glad to see so much participation in tonight’s meeting.

Councilor Ervin thanked everyone for coming to Council and said it is helpful when considering issues. He added that he wants to revisit Council rules and asked when it is scheduled.

Mayor Gowing replied that it is scheduled for the second meeting in April.

Councilor Ervin asked when the infrastructure tours are scheduled.

City Manager Richard Meyers replied that they are in the works and not scheduled as of yet.

Councilor Ervin said it was hard to get people to commit to three Thursdays.

Councilor Fleck said it was wonderful to have so many people at Council and encouraged everyone to come to Town Hall on April 5th. He said there is a lot of information available and asked people to come informed.

Councilor Fleck said that earlier in the meeting when he mentioned the clapping he did not intend for the young lady to feel that it was directed towards her, he said it was unfortunate timing and offered an apology. He added that he does care about his community and would not do this if he didn't. He said it is not easy being a Councilor and it requires people that are dedicated to the betterment of our community and if there is somebody else that would be better at it, he welcomes that and if the citizens are ready for a change he is good with that.

Councilor Fleck addressed the comments made about Community Sharing and the Shower Trailer. He said COVID has made it hard to get volunteers, and added that he has been discussing adding a second day and has offered to run it by himself on Fridays if necessary. He said there is a lot of misinformation out there and welcomes anyone who doesn't have the information to seek it out.

Councilor Solesbee said that being a Councilor is not an easy job and it is not taken lightly. She said all people deserve dignity and respect and it has to work both directions for all citizens. Councilor Solesbee held up documents and said they are the last six months of Police Reports for City Hall. She said she went through the reports and feels like she has not been told everything, She said she recognizes that she is a mandatory reporter and asked if the law allows a registered sex offender to live on City property. She said there are other reports of a women starting fires all around the Community Center, City Staff having to call the Police to have music turned down, and a knife fight outside of City Hall. She said she does not know the solution but it is not fair to the neighbors who live in the area.

Councilor Stinnett commended and thanked Mr. Christiansen who was interviewed and appointed to the Historic Preservation Commission and encouraged others to get involved and serve their community.

BUSINESS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

(a) American Rescue Plan Act Funds

Robert Dickinson 31755 Gowdyville, Cottage Grove Oregon commended the City for doing a thorough job on the presentation. He said it is a complex and challenging issue with many dimensions. He added that it is important to get past the misconceptions about Homelessness and it is important to remember that 11 percent of all homeless are veterans. He said he strongly encourages the City to allocate the ARPA Funds for the Homeless Shelters. He said the Federally Qualified Health Clinic (FQHC) is a great opportunity for Cottage Grove and South Lane County and will lead to better health outcomes for our community and locating the FQHC near the High School provides better opportunities for students to access much needed services and strongly encourages the City to allocate the requested funds for the FQHC.

Alicia Beymer 1515 Village Drive, Cottage Grove Oregon said she is the Chief Administrative Officer for Cottage Grove Community Medical Center with Peace Health. She said Peace Health supports the overarching vision of adding a Lane County Community Health Center in Cottage Grove, the Career Technical Education Program and would have interest in hiring graduates that qualify for positions at Peace Health.

Bruce Kelsh 78340 Halderman Road, Cottage Grove Oregon said he supports the allocation of funds for the homeless projects that the City is proposing. He said the Federal Health Clinic provides many opportunities for our community by improving public health and the City's participation in the funding of the project is critical as community support is key.

Jim Gilroy 946 Blue Sky Drive, Cottage Grove Oregon said he is here to answer questions if there are any on the basis of his presentation two weeks ago. He added that he was appointed as a Vision Keeper and one of the top goals was Community Health.

City Manager Richard Meyers explained that the City has received the first allocation of the ARPA funds and it needs to be determined how it will be distributed. He said the City has provided a list to the Councilors which includes a plan as to how the funds would be allocated over the next two to three years based on the earlier Work Session, previous discussions, and the goals and ideas from Council.

Councilor Stinnett declared a potential conflict based on the line item regarding Community Tourism Promotion as the Program Administrator of Downtown Cottage Grove.

Councilor Ervin declared a potential conflict as his wife is involved with the planning of the Chamber of Commerce Awards Banquet.

Councilor Fleck declared a potential conflict in case Community Sharing becomes involved.

Councilor Savage declared a potential conflict involving Community Tourism.

Councilor Ervin proposed the question, what is the responsibility of the City and how many of these items were not budgeted. He said he does not want to degrade the projects, but the City has to be excellent at what it does and the core responsibilities. He added that he understands the need for the other things and is not comfortable putting money into things when we are not excellent at what we do, like the streets.

Counselor Solesbee said she feels like the rules have changed, recalls the mission statement and said that Council needs to do what is right for the City.

Councilor Fleck said he could approve the plan and could also adjust some of the dollar figures. He suggested that the decision be put off until after the April 5th Town Hall. He said he agrees that the City needs to allocate money appropriately but to borrow money as interest rates are going up is a challenge. He added that having a managed site would mitigate most concerns that Councilor Solesbee presented and having this plan is good framework for a discussion.

Mayor Gowing asked if the dollar amounts for Broadband will accomplish the project or just get it started.

City Manager Richard Meyers said it will get it started unless we get the EDA Grant for Main Street then it would be money to assist with the project.

Mayor Gowing asked if that would be the same for the BioSolids project and added that if it is not really finishing a project but just getting started on a lot of things he would rather get things completed.

Councilor Savage asked if there are projects associated with the dollar amounts and how the dollar amount was determined.

City Manager Richard Meyers said some of the dollar amounts are there for expenditures that have already been made, and if the City is going to do the Homeless Sheltering we have to pay the Street Fund back for the property. He said the dollar amounts are using those base amounts and estimates for the other costs.

Councilor Savage said the Mobile Response is the lowest funded item and it could free up Police Officers and those who are First Responders and she would like to see it funded more.

City Manager Richard Meyers said we do not know how much that would yet and there is some funding available from the County and this amount would get it started.

Councilor Stinnett said Staff has done a good job of putting together the plan of items to potentially fund. He said all of the projects have merit and asked if this can be rolled into the budget process.

City Manager Richard Meyers said the purpose of this plan is so Council could give general guidelines to Staff to they will know where to place the money in the budget for the Budget Committee to look at.

Councilor Stinnett said so we are not locking in any of the figures.

City Manager Richard Meyers said no, they are broad general categories that would be put into the budget documents. He said some of them will be locked in because they have been spent this year and under the American Rescue Plan we could spend back to March 2021.

Councilor Stinnett read aloud the Staff recommendation from the memo.

Richard said the recommendation has two parts, one being that Council needs to authorize using the Standard Allowance which allows the City to not have to go through the reporting and accounting processes for the specific items, and the second is showing support for the proposed plan and it can change.

Councilor Ervin said he would love to see over half of the ARPA funds go to City services, and would like to know more about how the \$211,000 would be refunded.

Richard explained that it would not be refunded, the City would be buying the property from the Street Fund. He clarified that the City owns the property purchased with Street Fund money and if it is not being used for a street it has to be repaid.

Councilor Ervin asked what was the intent that we use if for a street.

Richard replied that it was for R Street.

Councilor Ervin said he would like to hear from the Town Hall before making a decision.

Councilor Fleck suggested separating the Homeless decision from the other issues.

Richard said the decision that needs to be made tonight is if the City will be using the Standard Allowance.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILOR FLECK AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR ERVIN TO THE USE THE STANDARD ALLOWANCE.

Mayor Gowing asked if there was any discussion, seeing none he called the vote.

The vote on the motion was as follows:

VOTE	Councilor Roberts	Councilor Stinnett	Councilor Savage	Councilor Fleck	Councilor Solesbee	Councilor Ervin	Mayor Gowing
AYES	X	X	X	X	X		X
NAYS						X	
ABSTAIN							

City Manager Richard Meyers explained to Council that they need to be looking at the plan and seriously be considering how the City is going to be using the money.

Mayor Gowing said he quickly calculated that one million dollars of the ARPA money would be going to City services.

(b) Report from City Manager

City Manager Richard Meyers told Council that the County COVID Emergency Declaration expires at the end of March and the City Emergency Declaration was tied to the Counties and will also expire on the 31st of March.

Richard reminded Council to complete their Statement of Economic Interest (SEI).

Richard clarified that the City purchased the Shower Trailer using CARES Act Funds, Community Sharing is operating it for the City, and the Weeldreyer's donated one thousand dollars to help with the needs of the unhoused.

BUSINESS FROM CITY ATTORNEY

(a) Report from City Attorney

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Gowing adjourned the regular meeting of the City Council at 9:46 pm.

The next regular City Council Meeting will be held April 11, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

Mindy Roberts, City Recorder

Jeffrey D. Gowing, Mayor

COTTAGE GROVE CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 28, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Jeff Gowing called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

ROLL CALL

City Recorder Mindy Roberts called the roll. The following were

PRESENT IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS:	Mayor Gowing, Councilors Candace Solesbee, Chalice Savage, Mike Fleck, Jon Stinnett, Greg Ervin, and Kenneth Michael Roberts
PRESENT VIA GOTOMEETING:	None
COUNCIL ABSENT:	None
STAFF PRESENT IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS:	City Manager Richard Meyers, Assistant to the City Manager Jake Boone, City Recorder Mindy Roberts, Public Works & Development Director Faye Stewart, Police Chief Scott Shepherd, Finance Director Roberta Likens, and Civil Engineer Ryan Sisson.
STAFF PRESENT VIA GOTOMEETING:	City Planner Eric Mongan
CITY ATTORNEY:	None
MEDIA PRESENT:	Damien Sherwood, The Sentinel and Cameron Reiten, KNND Radio

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

(a) Public Safety Telecommunicators Week Proclamation

Mayor Gowing read the Public Safety Telecommunicators Week Proclamation aloud and presented it to Dispatcher Becky Erbes.

(b) Drowning Prevention Month Proclamation

Mayor Gowing read the Drowning Prevention Month Proclamation aloud and presented it to Pool Manager Joshua Norton, South Lane Early Learning Center Heather Murphy, and Life Guards James and Cassidy.

ITEMS ADDED TO THE AGENDA

None

APPEARANCE OF INTERESTED CITIZENS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Bruce Kelsh 78340 Halderman Road, Cottage Grove Oregon congratulated the City on being designated Tree City, for receiving the grant for the Tree Giveaway on Saturday, and for the planting of 25 Cherry Trees at Trailhead Park. He shared that there are seven Japanese Cherry Tree Festivals outside of Japan and said he wonders if Cottage Grove could be the eighth. He said Salem, Oregon is one of the seven locations and they have 151 Cherry Trees, and if everyone kicked in a tree here and there Cottage Grove could be one of the locations.

Michelle Thurston 925 W Main Street, Cottage Grove Oregon said she is speaking in support of the proposed Community Health Center. She addressed concerns that were expressed at the previous Council meeting in regards to types of service that would be provided and who the services would be provided to. She said the Clinic is something that the community desperately needs and health care should be available for all people.

Johanna Zee 1386 Cottonwood, Cottage Grove, Oregon addressed the presentation regarding the Community Health Center. She said no one doubts that more services are needed for people in this community, the question is what type of services, what is effective, and what has worked. She said she is concerned about the organizations that are involved in the proposed Clinic and has discovered that all of them have a common thread of an ideology that is promoting equity, diversity, and inclusion. She said they are all talking about systemic racism, gender transition, and gender neutral bathrooms because they are funded with grants that have criteria and conflict of interest is prevalent in this community. She said just because you have services doesn't mean people who need them are going to take them and it is misleading to say that students are going to be able to learn a skill from this center and make good money.

Kylah Harris 81086 Sears Road, Cottage Grove, Oregon said the vaccine is not safe and she described her personal experience with medical complications, emergency room visits, hospitalizations, and pain suffered as a result of getting the vaccine. She said if the clinic is promoting the vaccine she wants people to know the risk.

Councilor Mike Fleck called a Point of Order and asked the audience to refrain from clapping on either side of issues.

Kylah Harris used explicit language.

Mayor Gowing asked her to leave the Council Chambers.

Linda Olson Girard Ave, Cottage Grove, Oregon said she came to Council to speak about the Clinic and the comments made by the previous speaker had changed her mind. She said she has family members who have had complications from the vaccine and it breaks her heart to hear of young people experiencing problems. She said she has heard that there are not enough volunteers to run the shower facility and if the City is focused on taking care of the homeless we should use some of the funding to pay custodial staff to help them. She said the homeless deserve respect and the City is more focused on putting \$100,000 to South Lane Medical Clinic where they are going to mandate vaccinations. She said an article in the paper indicated the City is eliminating items under Chapter 12.24.020 to allow the homeless to live in our parks and in the parking lots, but nobody is talking about if the City is going to provide toilets for them. She said as a tax payer she wants to know that she is not paying for hazardous waste cleanup and the City should invest in the basic amenities. She said the Health Clinic is a necessary service but it is the wrong placement right next to the High School. She added that there are solutions out there, the City is just not hearing them and some of the short cuts being taken without looking at the long-haul is a sad venture. She said this is our community and we need to take it back, people are talking and they are saying enough is enough.

Jan Ogsbury 1350 Merrill Lane, Cottage Grove, Oregon said there are a lot of accusations being thrown around in the community and she thinks it is shameful. She said she is in support of the Health Clinic.

Hearther Murphy 1042 Chestnut, Cottage Grove Oregon thanked Joshua for the Pool Proclamation. She said currently there are nearly 30 children learning basic life safety and some are choosing to continue on and learn swim strokes. She said this is the way that you build community and is an inclusion of people who have never had the opportunity.

Duncan Newbery 80433 Sears Rd, Cottage Grove, Oregon said he received a talking point memo from a group called wethepeople.org and he disagrees with a lot of the statements. He said his comments are lengthy and he would like to provide them in writing. He said the answer is to address the problems and offer services to people as we would want services offered to us if we were in the same position. He said we are blessed to live in a land of plenty and the fact there are people who are homeless and hungry is not an indictment of their character for being in need, but ours for failing to help them. He said he urges City Council to move forward with these services and move beyond fear and judgment.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

CONSENT AGENDA

- (a) Approval of March 7, 2022 Work Session Minutes
- (b) Approval of March 11, 2022 Agenda Meeting Minutes
- (c) Approval of March 14, 2022 City Council Minutes
- (d) National Library Week Proclamation

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILOR FLECK AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR ROBERTS TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA

An audience member raised her hand and asked if she could speak at the meeting.

Mayor Gowing explained that she did not sign up and he has a motion on the table.

Mayor Gowing called the vote.

The vote on the motion was as follows:

VOTE	Councilor Roberts	Councilor Stinnett	Councilor Savage	Councilor Fleck	Councilor Solesbee	Councilor Ervin	Mayor Gowing
AYES	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
NAYS							
ABSTAIN							

RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES

- (a) Resolution Authorizing Support for an Oregon Parks and Recreation Department Local Government Grant Application for Bohemia Park north Entry Plaza Splash Pad

Public Works & Development Director Faye Stewart explained that in October of 2021 the City supported an application to the Economic and Development Administration (EDA) for a grant opportunity to fund capital improvements at Bohemia Park. He said this item is a grant application for \$450,000 to fund the water tower and interpretive water feature and it could be built as a standalone improvement regardless of the outcome of the EDA grant. If the EDA grant is fully funded, the Local Government Grant will be considered an additional match to the EDA grant. He said the City match of the Engineering and Planning Staff support, Utility and Permit fees is estimated at \$50,000. He said it is necessary at this time that Council adopt a Resolution authorizing support for submittal of the grant application to the Oregon Parks and Recreation Local Government Grant Program for the Bohemia Park, and added that the deadline for submittal is April 1, 2022.

Mayor Gowing asked the City Recorder for the Resolution number.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILOR FLECK AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR ERVIN TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2066

The vote on the motion was as follows:

VOTE	Councilor Roberts	Councilor Stinnett	Councilor Savage	Councilor Fleck	Councilor Solesbee	Councilor Ervin	Mayor Gowing
AYES	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
NAYS							
ABSTAIN							

Mayor Gowing announced Resolution 2066 carried.

(b) Resolution Establishing Appropriations within the General Fund, Community Development Department, for the Expenditure of an Unforeseen Specific Purpose Grant from the Arbor Day Foundation

Finance Director Roberta Likens said the City has received a grant in the amount of \$6,700 from the Arbor Day Foundation made possible by the Serendipity Foundation and it is to be used specifically to provide funding for the City’s tree planting and distribution project. She said this allows for the purchase of 900 trees to be given to the residents of Cottage Grove and 100 larger stature trees to be purchased and planted on public property. She added that in order to spend the money lawfully the City must comply with the requirements of local budget law and it is Staff’s recommendation that City Council adopt a resolution to establish appropriations for the use of the grant funds.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILOR ERVIN AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR FLECK THAT CITY COUNCIL ADOPT RESOLUTION 2067 TO ESTABLISH APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE USE OF THE GRANT FUNDS.

Mayor Gowing asked if there was any discussion, seeing none he called the vote.

The vote on the motion was as follows:

VOTE	Councilor Roberts	Councilor Stinnett	Councilor Savage	Councilor Fleck	Councilor Solesbee	Councilor Ervin	Mayor Gowing
AYES	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
NAYS							
ABSTAIN							

Mayor Gowing announced Resolution 2067 carried.

BUSINESS FROM THE CITY COUNCIL

(a) Warren H. Daugherty Aquatic Center Report

City Manager Richard Meyers introduced Pool Manager Joshua Norton to present the Annual Aquatic Center Report.

Joshua Norton shared a slide presentation outlining the key focus areas of Education, Recreation, Fitness, Therapy, and Competition for the Aquatic Center. He discussed each of the focus areas and highlighted the programs, attendance and accomplishments in each. He said the Aquatic Center is also actively reaching out to the community to create relationships and is starting to work with Community Partners such as the Early Learning Center, Eugene Skin Divers, Cottage Grove Physical Therapy, Cottage Grove Aqua Lions, and the Tamarack Pool. He added that they now have 23 certified life guards and 19 of them are under 18 years of age and are doing a wonderful job. He said Cottage Grove should be very aware of the youth, the work that they are doing, the community that they are building and he hopes that the City of Cottage Grove will continue to be a major partner.

Councilor Ervin complimented Joshua and said he appreciates that he is in this role utilizing the new pool.

Councilor Roberts complimented Joshua and said his enthusiasm is wonderful and that it was the best pool report the City has ever had.

Councilor Stinnett said the statement made in the presentation, “We will always decide to be ambitious” was powerful and that he was always in support of renovating the pool and the energy that has been brought into the new facility has paid dividends. He said he has always appreciated the empowerment of the young people at the pool and asked when the recreational swim times are.

Joshua gave the operating times and had schedules available.

Councilor Fleck said the presentation was great and noted the positive impact on the amount of people that are brought to the community as a result of the pool.

Councilor Savage said the City is lucky to have the pool and Joshua as the Pool Manager.

Councilor Solesbee said she is grateful that Joshua is doing a great job at the pool and that young teens are involved.

Mayor Gowing thanked Joshua for a great presentation.

(b) Chamber of Commerce Report

City Manager Richard Meyers introduced the Chamber of Commerce CEO Shauna Neigh to present the Chamber of Commerce Report. He added that one percent of the four percent Transient Room Tax is one of the funding mechanisms for the Chamber of Commerce. He said in the 2019-20 fiscal year the Transient Room Tax dropped \$20,000 from 2018-19 and in the year 2020-21 it dropped an additional \$16,000 and even with the Village Green being gone the Transient Room Tax has rebounded and we are currently \$3,879 ahead of the total for 2019-20. He added that the City of Eugene will no longer be facilitating the collection and distribution of the Transient Room Tax and instead they will be using the Department of Revenue and the City of Cottage Grove will need to switch by July 1st.

Chamber of Commerce CEO Shauna Neigh shared a slide presentation recapping membership numbers, website and Visitor Center statistics, Chamber Events including the Halloween Hootenanny, Cottage Grove Christmas Kick Off and the Shop Small Campaign. She presented the names of the 2022 Board and said this year they are updating Policies and Procedures, By-Laws, and making some changes to Concerts in the Park by creating a committee that will manage the event. She added that the Chamber of Commerce Awards Banquet will be held May 21st, and that she brought copies of the Cottage Grove Visitors & Newcomers Guide and the Eugene Cascades and Coast Visitors Guide.

Councilor Savage thanked Shauna for all of the work that she has done to help keep businesses going during the pandemic.

Councilor Solesbee thanked Shauna for helping to make businesses thrive during the shut downs.

Councilor Roberts told Shauna that her enthusiasm for the community is great and that Cottage Grove is lucky to have her.

Councilor Fleck told Shauna to let the City know how they can help support the Chamber.

Councilor Ervin said he appreciates having the local businesses and loves to see things grow and appreciates her efforts. He asked from polling people at the Visitors Center, what is bringing people to our community.

Shauna replied that 9 out of 10 people are coming here to see the Covered Bridges and mainly because they do not realize everything that Cottage Grove has to offer.

Councilor Stinnett thanked Shauna for her efforts and energy. He said he is excited about the future of this community and he can tell that she is too.

Mayor Gowing thanked Shauna for always taking the time to answer his questions.

(c) Historic Preservation Commission Appointments

City Planner Eric Mongan asked the Chair of the Subcommittee Councilor Savage to present the recommendation.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILOR SAVAGE AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR ERVIN TO REAPPOINT TARA SUE HUGHART AND APPOINT THE APPLICANT WILLIAM CHRISTIANSEN FOR THE REMAINING TERM TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2024.

Mayor Gowing asked if there were any questions.

Councilor Roberts asked if there was still one seat unoccupied on the Commission and if we are planning to fill it.

City Planner Eric Mongan replied yes, the City will repost the advertisement and make contact with the existing Commissioners to see if they know of any interested candidates.

Mayor Gowing called the vote.

The vote on the motion was as follows:

VOTE	Councilor Roberts	Councilor Stinnett	Councilor Savage	Councilor Fleck	Councilor Solesbee	Councilor Ervin	Mayor Gowing
AYES	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
NAYS							
ABSTAIN							

(d) Council Review of Two- Year Streatery Pilot Study

Civil Engineer Ryan Sisson provided the results of the Streatery Pilot Study to Council and said this presentation is to assist them in evaluating whether to cancel or extend the Streatery Program. He highlighted that 71% of respondents affirmed that the program should continue, 11 respondents indicated that it should not, and 4 responses expressed that it should continue with changes. Ryan said that Staff recommends that Council approve the Streatery Program to continue for the existing three Streateries.

Councilor Fleck commented that his original concern was that a car would stray into the Streateries and harm somebody. He commended Staff for building a sturdy Streatery and placing bollards in front of them. He said he is still concerned about parking and would like to see the program continue for another year and then give an opportunity for other businesses to apply rather than grandfathering the original three businesses in for years. He added that he would not want to see more than one Streatery on each block.

Councilor Ervin said he thinks the program should go forward and he likes the idea of no more than one per block with a total of three and a lottery so that everyone who wants one gets a chance.

Councilor Savage thanked Ryan for all the work that has been done in the study and said that the Streateries are beautifully made. She said she has been asked when they will be going back up.

Ryan Sisson credited the Building and Maintenance Staff for building the Streateries.

Councilor Savage said there are issues with parking downtown and believes it is not a parking problem but an enforcement problem.

Public Works and Development Director Faye Stewart said the dates for the Streatory Program is March 15th to October 31st and if businesses are prepared, the crew could work on getting them set up providing that Council extends the program.

City Manager Richard Meyers reported that both of the Community Service Officer positions are vacant and the City is working on getting volunteers until the positions are filled.

Councilor Solesbee thanked Ryan for all of his work and said the Streateries have received a great response from the community.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILOR FLECK AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR ERVIN TO EXTEND THE PROGRAM FOR TWO YEARS WITH THE EXISTING BUSINESSES AND THEN OPEN UP A LOTTERY FOR OTHERS TO APPLY IN SUBSEQUENT YEARS.

Mayor Gowing asked if there was any further discussion, seeing none he called the vote.

The vote on the motion was as follows:

VOTE	Councilor Roberts	Councilor Stinnett	Councilor Savage	Councilor Fleck	Councilor Solesbee	Councilor Ervin	Mayor Gowing
AYES	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
NAYS							
ABSTAIN							

(e) Recommendation to Award Contract for Manufacture and Delivery of Clarifier Equipment

Civil Engineer Ryan Sisson informed Council that one of the existing clarifiers is 39 years old and has been inspected by West Yost Associates Consultants indicating that it is in need of overall rehabilitation and the mechanism is in need of replacement.

He said the City invited clarifier mechanism manufacturers to submit competitive bids for the replacement clarifier mechanism by March 22, 2022 and three bids were received. He explained that each bid has two options, one for a stainless steel center column and the other for a coated carbon steel column and comparing the two numbers helped the City determine the cost effectiveness of deciding between the two options. Ryan said that the coated carbon steel may save the City money in the short term and the stainless steel center column is expected to last longer. He added that each bid contained an escalation clause, noting the volatility of steel prices that could cause their own prices for steel to significantly increase. Ryan said that the City has determined stainless steel is the most cost effective, the escalation clause offered by ClearStream provides the least risk and Staff recommends that Council award the clarifier rehabilitation phase one mechanism contract to the qualified bidder ClearStream Environmental in the amount of \$433,770 and authorize the City Manager to execute the contract and all related documents.

Councilor Fleck commended Staff for the diligence in trying to keep prices down.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILOR FLECK AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR ROBERTS TO AWARD THE CLARIFIER REHABILITATION PHASE ONE MECHANISM CONTRACT TO THE QUALIFIED BIDDER CLEARSTREAM ENVIRONMENTAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$433,770 AND AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE CONTRACT AND CONFIRM ALL ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS SUBJECT TO THE EXPIRATION OF THE PROTEST PERIOD OR RESOLUTION OF ANY TIMELY FILED PROTESTS.

Mayor Gowing announced there is a motion with a second and called for discussion.

Councilor Ervin asked what the material of the current clarifier is.

Ryan Sisson said he believes that it is coated steel.

Councilor Ervin asked how many years we have gotten out of the current clarifier.

Ryan Sisson said 39 years.

Councilor Ervin asked 39 years with no maintenance.

Public Works and Development Director Faye Stewart said it was less than ten years ago that the clarifier was drawn down and general maintenance was done to the mechanism. He said the issue is that the drive mechanism is worn out and you cannot get parts for the motors and the various different parts. He said that he cannot state how much maintenance has been done over the years and it is a fabricated steel product not stainless steel.

Councilor Ervin asked if it is the same carbon coated steel, why would there be an estimate of maintenance every ten years at \$50,000.

Ryan said the Consultant indicated that is standard practice for maintenance of coated steel.

Councilor Ervin said he must be missing something.

Faye said that he has been here five years and cannot say whether it has been sand blasted and coated every ten years and that it was taken down and extensive maintenance was done approximately nine years ago.

Councilor Ervin said he heard it has been running nonstop.

Faye said they operate 24 hours a day/7 days a week and are drawn down once a year to clean them. He added that this clarifier has not been drawn down for five years because the floor of the clarifier floats upward and there is concern that it would be able to be restarted without the floor crumbling.

Assistant to the City Manager Jake Boone offered a comparison of using life expectancy to help explain why some may last longer than others.

Councilor Ervin said if the decision making process is that we are saving money in the long run by going with something that requires less maintenance that has higher upfront costs, and asked how is that really the case if our current system didn't require that.

Ryan replied to Councilor Ervin that his concerns are important and added that the current Plant Manager is proactive with operations and maintenance of the plant and is impressed with what plant staff is committed to doing in the future.

Mayor Gowing asked if there was any further discussion, seeing none he called the vote.

The vote on the motion was as follows:

VOTE	Councilor Roberts	Councilor Stinnett	Councilor Savage	Councilor Fleck	Councilor Solesbee	Councilor Ervin	Mayor Gowing
AYES	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
NAYS							
ABSTAIN							

(f) Council Approve Purchase of 1.37 Acres of Land from Weyerhaeuser by Quitclaim Deed

Public Works and Development Director Faye Stewart said in 2021 Council authorized making an offer to Weyhaeuser for this property. He said the City made an offer of \$5,000 with the intent in developing a walking trail that would connect from 6th Street to Hayes Ave. He said the Title Company traced deed transfers from the time the parcels were established and was able to locate all but two of the eight transfers. He said because there is a gap in the title transfers and the Title Company is reluctant to issue Title Insurance, Staff is asking Council to authorize the purchase of 1.37 acres to Weyerhaeuser by Quitclaim Deed for the property. He added it is

his understanding that the only individuals that could challenge the purchase would be the owners of OP& E Railroad and Bohemia Lumber Company at the time, and those owners are deceased and there is not much risk in seeing a claim.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILOR FLECK AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR SOLESBEE TO ACCEPT THE QUITCLAIM PURCHASE OF 1.37 ACRES FROM WEYHAEUSER AND AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO SIGN ALL NECESSARY DOCUMENTS.

Mayor Gowing asked if there was any discussion, seeing none he called the vote.

The vote on the motion was as follows:

VOTE	Councilor Roberts	Councilor Stinnett	Councilor Savage	Councilor Fleck	Councilor Solesbee	Councilor Ervin	Mayor Gowing
AYES	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
NAYS							
ABSTAIN							

(g) Budget Committee Recruitment

Finance Director Roberta Likens said there are two full term vacant positions on the Budget Committee and in order to facilitate the selection process Council should select a Council Committee to interview the applicants and make a recommendation to City Council.

Mayor Gowing appointed Councilor Fleck, Councilor Savage as members and Councilor Ervin as chair.

(h) Concerns from Council

Councilor Savage said she was glad to see so much participation in tonight’s meeting.

Councilor Ervin thanked everyone for coming to Council and said it is helpful when considering issues. He added that he wants to revisit Council rules and asked when it is scheduled.

Mayor Gowing replied that it is scheduled for the second meeting in April.

Councilor Ervin asked when the infrastructure tours are scheduled.

City Manager Richard Meyers replied that they are in the works and not scheduled as of yet.

Councilor Ervin said it was hard to get people to commit to three Thursdays.

Councilor Fleck said it was wonderful to have so many people at Council and encouraged everyone to come to Town Hall on April 5th. He said there is a lot of information available and asked people to come informed.

Councilor Fleck said that earlier in the meeting when he mentioned the clapping he did not intend for the young lady to feel that it was directed towards her, he said it was unfortunate timing and offered an apology. He added that he does care about his community and would not do this if he didn't. He said it is not easy being a Councilor and it requires people that are dedicated to the betterment of our community and if there is somebody else that would be better at it, he welcomes that and if the citizens are ready for a change he is good with that.

Councilor Fleck addressed the comments made about Community Sharing and the Shower Trailer. He said COVID has made it hard to get volunteers, and added that he has been discussing adding a second day and has offered to run it by himself on Fridays if necessary. He said there is a lot of misinformation out there and welcomes anyone who doesn't have the information to seek it out.

Councilor Solesbee said that being a Councilor is not an easy job and it is not taken lightly. She said all people deserve dignity and respect and it has to work both directions for all citizens. Councilor Solesbee held up documents and said they are the last six months of Police Reports for City Hall. She said she went through the reports and feels like she has not been told everything, She said she recognizes that she is a mandatory reporter and asked if the law allows a registered sex offender to live on City property. She said there are other reports of a women starting fires all around the Community Center, City Staff having to call the Police to have music turned down, and a knife fight outside of City Hall. She said she does not know the solution but it is not fair to the neighbors who live in the area.

Councilor Stinnett commended and thanked Mr. Christiansen who was interviewed and appointed to the Historic Preservation Commission and encouraged others to get involved and serve their community.

BUSINESS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

(a) American Rescue Plan Act Funds

Robert Dickinson 31755 Gowdyville, Cottage Grove Oregon commended the City for doing a thorough job on the presentation. He said it is a complex and challenging issue with many dimensions. He added that it is important to get past the misconceptions about Homelessness and it is important to remember that 11 percent of all homeless are veterans. He said he strongly encourages the City to allocate the ARPA Funds for the Homeless Shelters. He said the Federally Qualified Health Clinic (FQHC) is a great opportunity for Cottage Grove and South Lane County and will lead to better health outcomes for our community and locating the FQHC near the High School provides better opportunities for students to access much needed services and strongly encourages the City to allocate the requested funds for the FQHC.

Alicia Beymer 1515 Village Drive, Cottage Grove Oregon said she is the Chief Administrative Officer for Cottage Grove Community Medical Center with Peace Health. She said Peace Health supports the overarching vision of adding a Lane County Community Health Center in Cottage Grove, the Career Technical Education Program and would have interest in hiring graduates that qualify for positions at Peace Health.

Bruce Kelsh 78340 Halderman Road, Cottage Grove Oregon said he supports the allocation of funds for the homeless projects that the City is proposing. He said the Federal Health Clinic provides many opportunities for our community by improving public health and the City's participation in the funding of the project is critical as community support is key.

Jim Gilroy 946 Blue Sky Drive, Cottage Grove Oregon said he is here to answer questions if there are any on the basis of his presentation two weeks ago. He added that he was appointed as a Vision Keeper and one of the top goals was Community Health.

City Manager Richard Meyers explained that the City has received the first allocation of the ARPA funds and it needs to be determined how it will be distributed. He said the City has provided a list to the Councilors which includes a plan as to how the funds would be allocated over the next two to three years based on the earlier Work Session, previous discussions, and the goals and ideas from Council.

Councilor Stinnett declared a potential conflict based on the line item regarding Community Tourism Promotion as the Program Administrator of Downtown Cottage Grove.

Councilor Ervin declared a potential conflict as his wife is involved with the planning of the Chamber of Commerce Awards Banquet.

Councilor Fleck declared a potential conflict in case Community Sharing becomes involved.

Councilor Savage declared a potential conflict involving Community Tourism.

Councilor Ervin proposed the question, what is the responsibility of the City and how many of these items were not budgeted. He said he does not want to degrade the projects, but the City has to be excellent at what it does and the core responsibilities. He added that he understands the need for the other things and is not comfortable putting money into things when we are not excellent at what we do, like the streets.

Counselor Solesbee said she feels like the rules have changed, recalls the mission statement and said that Council needs to do what is right for the City.

Councilor Fleck said he could approve the plan and could also adjust some of the dollar figures. He suggested that the decision be put off until after the April 5th Town Hall. He said he agrees that the City needs to allocate money appropriately but to borrow money as interest rates are going up is a challenge. He added that having a managed site would mitigate most concerns that Councilor Solesbee presented and having this plan is good framework for a discussion.

Mayor Gowing asked if the dollar amounts for Broadband will accomplish the project or just get it started.

City Manager Richard Meyers said it will get it started unless we get the EDA Grant for Main Street then it would be money to assist with the project.

Mayor Gowing asked if that would be the same for the BioSolids project and added that if it is not really finishing a project but just getting started on a lot of things he would rather get things completed.

Councilor Savage asked if there are projects associated with the dollar amounts and how the dollar amount was determined.

City Manager Richard Meyers said some of the dollar amounts are there for expenditures that have already been made, and if the City is going to do the Homeless Sheltering we have to pay the Street Fund back for the property. He said the dollar amounts are using those base amounts and estimates for the other costs.

Councilor Savage said the Mobile Response is the lowest funded item and it could free up Police Officers and those who are First Responders and she would like to see it funded more.

City Manager Richard Meyers said we do not know how much that would yet and there is some funding available from the County and this amount would get it started.

Councilor Stinnett said Staff has done a good job of putting together the plan of items to potentially fund. He said all of the projects have merit and asked if this can be rolled into the budget process.

City Manager Richard Meyers said the purpose of this plan is so Council could give general guidelines to Staff so they will know where to place the money in the budget for the Budget Committee to look at.

Councilor Stinnett said so we are not locking in any of the figures.

City Manager Richard Meyers said no, they are broad general categories that would be put into the budget documents. He said some of them will be locked in because they have been spent this year and under the American Rescue Plan we could spend back to March 2021.

Councilor Stinnett read aloud the Staff recommendation from the memo.

Richard said the recommendation has two parts, one being that Council needs to authorize using the Standard Allowance which allows the City to not have to go through the reporting and accounting processes for the specific items, and the second is showing support for the proposed plan and it can change.

Councilor Ervin said he would love to see over half of the ARPA funds go to City services, and would like to know more about how the \$211,000 would be refunded.

Richard explained that it would not be refunded, the City would be buying the property from the Street Fund. He clarified that the City owns the property purchased with Street Fund money and if it is not being used for a street it has to be repaid.

Councilor Ervin asked what was the intent that we use if for a street.

Richard replied that it was for R Street.

Councilor Ervin said he would like to hear from the Town Hall before making a decision.

Councilor Fleck suggested separating the Homeless decision from the other issues.

Richard said the decision that needs to be made tonight is if the City will be using the Standard Allowance.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILOR FLECK AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR ERVIN TO THE USE THE STANDARD ALLOWANCE.

Mayor Gowing asked if there was any discussion, seeing none he called the vote.

The vote on the motion was as follows:

VOTE	Councilor Roberts	Councilor Stinnett	Councilor Savage	Councilor Fleck	Councilor Solesbee	Councilor Ervin	Mayor Gowing
AYES	X	X	X	X	X		X
NAYS						X	
ABSTAIN							

City Manager Richard Meyers explained to Council that they need to be looking at the plan and seriously be considering how the City is going to be using the money.

Mayor Gowing said he quickly calculated that one million dollars of the ARPA money would be going to City services.

(b) Report from City Manager

City Manager Richard Meyers told Council that the County COVID Emergency Declaration expires at the end of March and the City Emergency Declaration was tied to the Counties and will also expire on the 31st of March.

Richard reminded Council to complete their Statement of Economic Interest (SEI).

Richard clarified that the City purchased the Shower Trailer using CARES Act Funds, Community Sharing is operating it for the City, and the Weeldreyer's donated one thousand dollars to help with the needs of the unhoused.

BUSINESS FROM CITY ATTORNEY

- (a) Report from City Attorney

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Gowing adjourned the regular meeting of the City Council at 9:46 pm.

The next regular City Council Meeting will be held April 11, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

Mindy Roberts, City Recorder

Jeffrey D. Gowing, Mayor

Warren H. Daugherty Aquatic Center



Providing a diverse set of excellent aquatic programs in a safe, clean, and fun environment.
Building Community



Diverse Programs

- Education
- Recreation
- Fitness
- Therapy
- Competition



School Group Classes



- Elementary Classes
 - 3 groups per day for Kindergarten, 1st, 3rd, and 5th Grade
- Middle School Madness
 - Total of 113 6th grader
 - 31 hours of pool time over 8 days
 - Total of 191 7th & 8th graders
 - 42.5 hours of pool time over 8 days



Swim Lessons

Winter Session One 52 participants
Winter Session Two 55 participants
Winter Session Three 73 participants

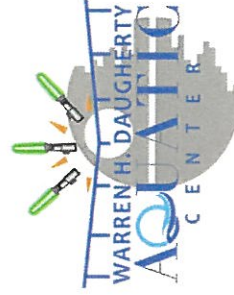
Spring Session One 89 participants

Water Babies

10 babies per class average

Private Swim Lessons
Semi Private Lessons

210 since July 1 2021
73 since July 1 2021



Recreation



During the School Year we offer 7.5 hours a week of Open-Recreational Swim for students and Families

We currently have 377 active memberships (Senior, Adult, Student, and Family)

- Student drop in visits March 2022 353
- Family drop in visits March 2022 65

(Family drop in consists of 2 adults and up to 4 dependents)



Pool Parties



The Aquatic Facility is rented out for private parties every weekend.

Our average rental is 1.5 hours long and we are currently booking 4 rentals per weekend.

As we move closer to summer season we plan to increase our rentals to 10 hours or more of rented pool time per week.



Group Exercise & Workouts

- Aquacisers average 6 days a week
- Aquaworkout 2 days a week
- Ai Chi average 2 days a week
- Mermaid Group 2 days a week
- Boot Camp average 2 days a week

We have 134 Active Passes for adults and seniors. These passes allow access to Group Exercise, Lap Swim or Independent Workout

Adult Drop in visits March 2022
 Senior Drop in visits March 2022



5 participant average
 7 participant

9 participant average
 7 participant

76
 65

High School Athletics

• 6A District Championship February 4th & 5th 2022

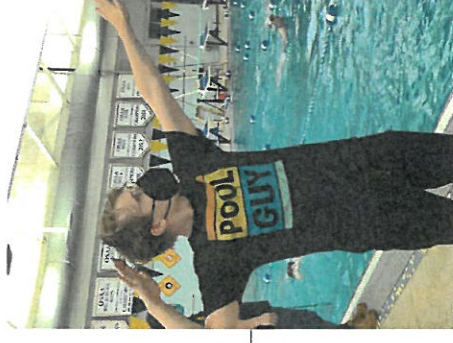
- Grants Pass
- North Medford
- Roseburg
- Sheldon
- South Eugene
- South Medford

• 4A/3A/2A/1A District Championship February 11th & 12th

- Cascade Christian
- Cottage Grove
- Henley
- Hidden Valley
- Klamath Union
- Marshfield
- Mazama
- North Valley

• 5A District Championship February 11th & 12th 2022

- Ashland
- Churchill
- Crater
- Eagle Point
- North Bend
- Eugene
- Springfield
- Thurston
- Willamette



Community Partnerships

- Early Learning Center
 - Register and Paid for over 40 students to participate in Swim Lessons.
- Scuba
 - Rent the Lap Pool every Tuesday/Thursday and have certified over 200 individuals
 - Participants come from all over Lane and Douglas County and attend our facility at least 4 times before completing their course
- Cottage Grove Physical Therapy
 - 20 Clients between June and October 2021
 - One hour appointments with the Therapist during Independent Workout times
 - Created a Physical Therapy Membership with 35 sold.



Community Partnership



- Cottage Grove Aqua Lions
 - 13.5 hours per week of Pool time
 - 5 Home Swim Meets sine July 2021
- Tamarack
 - Ai Chi 2 hours a week
 - Watsu during Independent Workout



Corporate Sponsorship



Seasonal Sponsorship

- Gold Sponsor \$1,000.00
- Silver Sponsor \$500.00
- Bronze Sponsor \$250.00

Summer
April 15

June, July, August

Application deadline

Fall

September, October, November

Application deadline July 15

Winter
15

December, January, February

Application deadline October

Spring

March, April, May

Application deadline

January 15



Building Community.





2021 In Review

COTTAGE GROVE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

SHAUNA NEIGH, CEO



MEMBERSHIP:

- 230 Members
- 34 New Members
- 13 Dropped

- Membership Support:
- 5 memberships Sponsored
- Business After Hours
- Website
- Oregon RAIN

VOLUNTEERS:

Tara Sue Hughart
Penny Westling
Ann Krush

High School Interns:
River Molyneaux
Rhea Florez

Increased hours to 7 days a week
during tourism season

Increased tourism sales

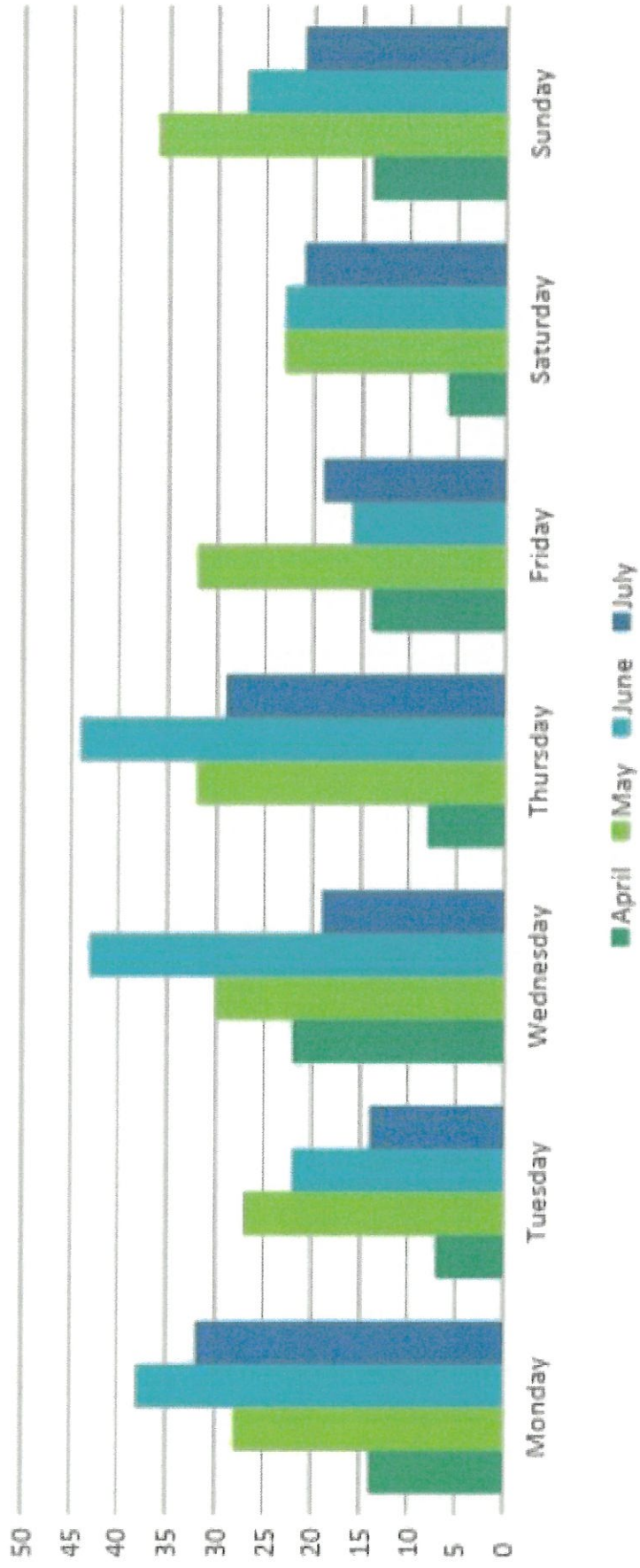
Increased Face to Face
interaction

Participation in Art Walk

Statistics on summer tourism:



VISITOR CENTER



Monday – 112 (Closed on 07/05)

Tuesday - 70

Wednesday - 114

Thursday - 113

Friday – 81

Saturday - 73

Sunday – 98 (closed on 07/04)

2021 FOCUS:

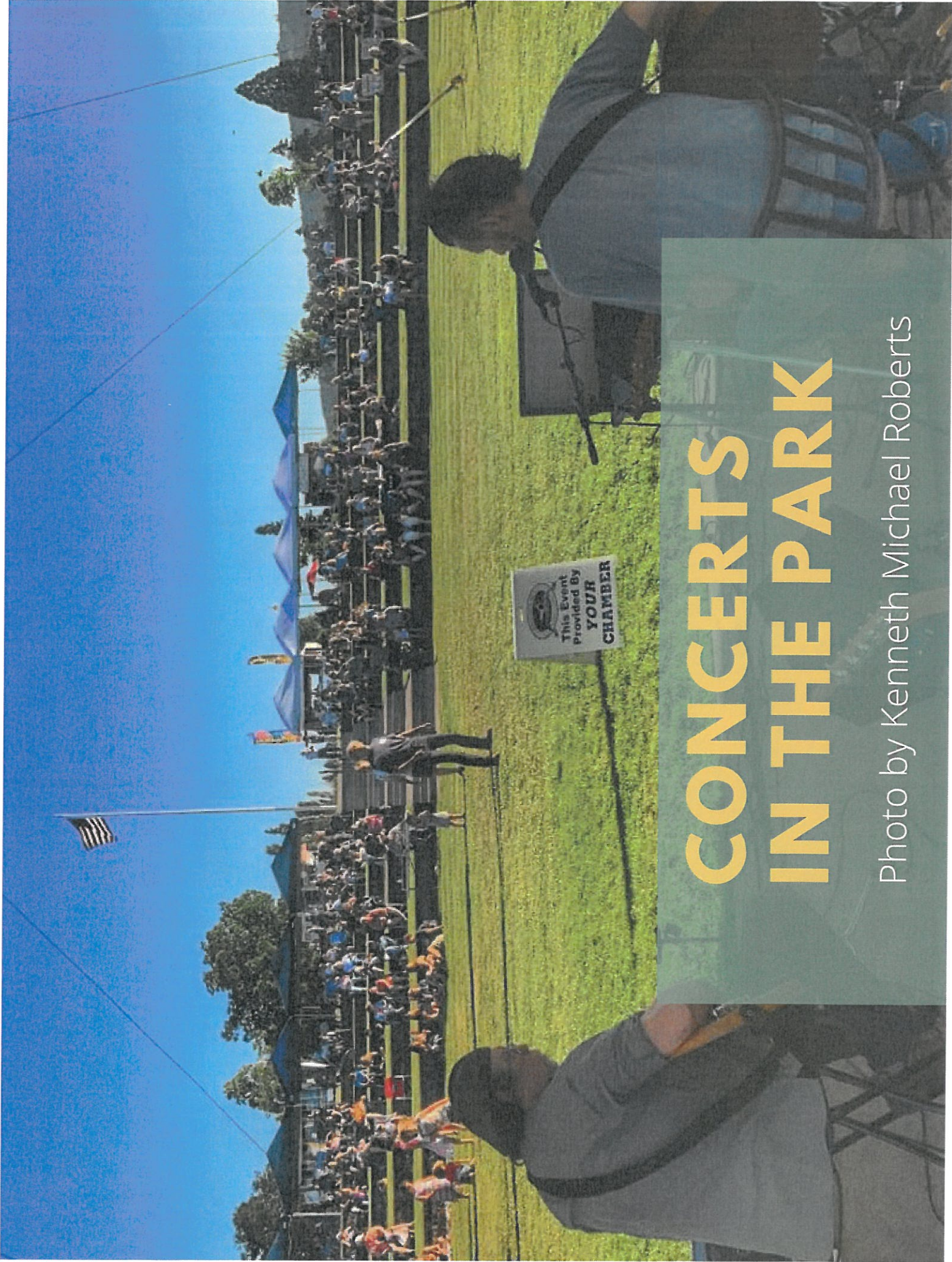
PARTNERSHIP and TOURISM

- The City of Cottage Grove
- Travel Lane County
- Eugene Cascades & Coast
- KNND
- The Sentinel
- The Chronicle



YEAR OF POSITIVE PUBLICITY

- The Oregonian
- The Eugene Magazine
- Eugene Cascades and Coast
- Travel Awaits
- Travel Lane County
- Jon Stinnett - Featured Business
- The Chronicle
- The Sentinel



CONCERTS IN THE PARK

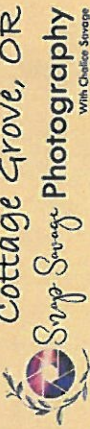
Photo by Kenneth Michael Roberts

HALLOWEEN HOOTENANNY



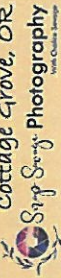
2021 Halloween Hootinanny

Cottage Grove, OR



2021 Halloween Hootinanny

Cottage Grove, OR



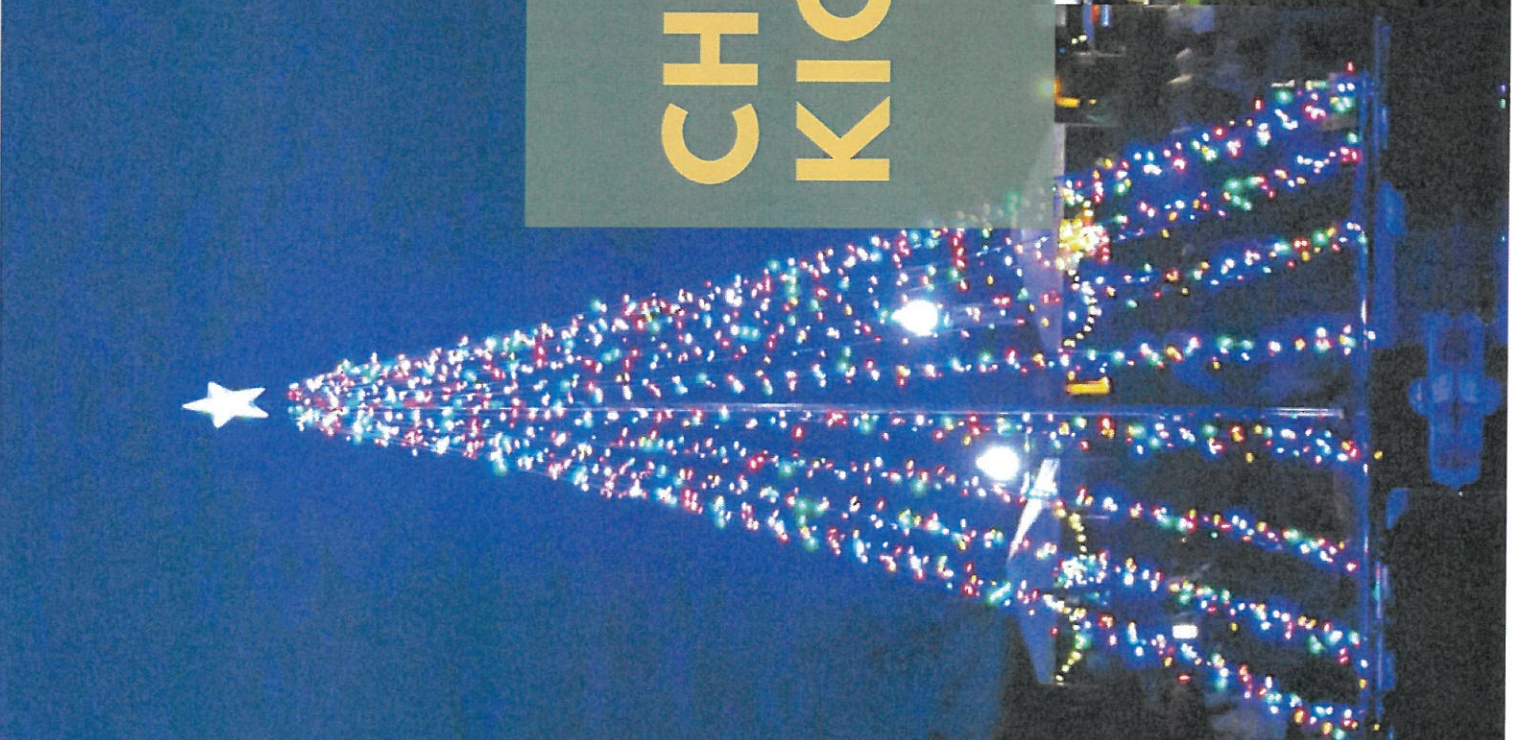
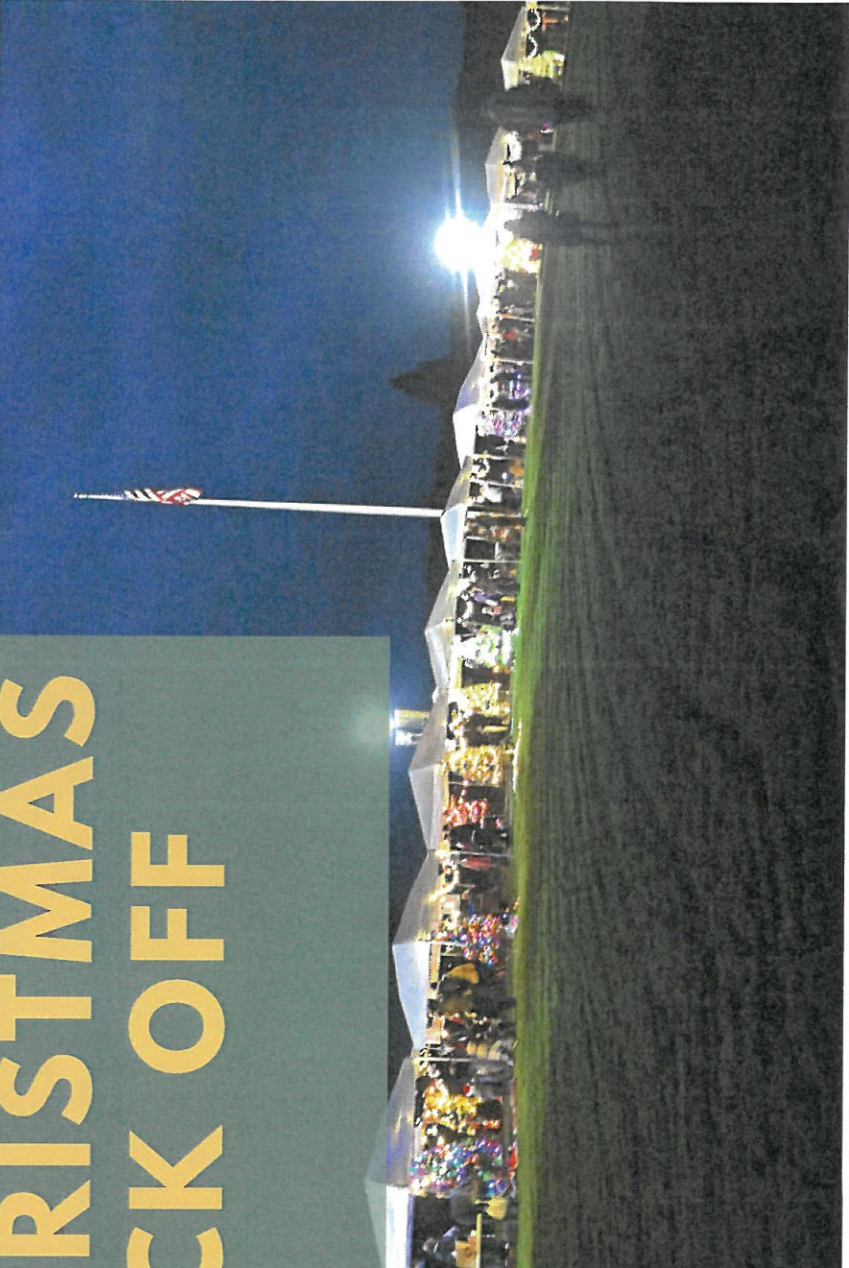
SHOP SMALL CAMPAIGN:

- Sanity Chocolate Virtual Tour
- Cash Mob
- Jingle the Elf
- Harrison Parent Club
- Shop Early Shop Local (QR Code)
- KNND
- The Sentinel
- The Chronicle





CHRISTMAS KICK OFF

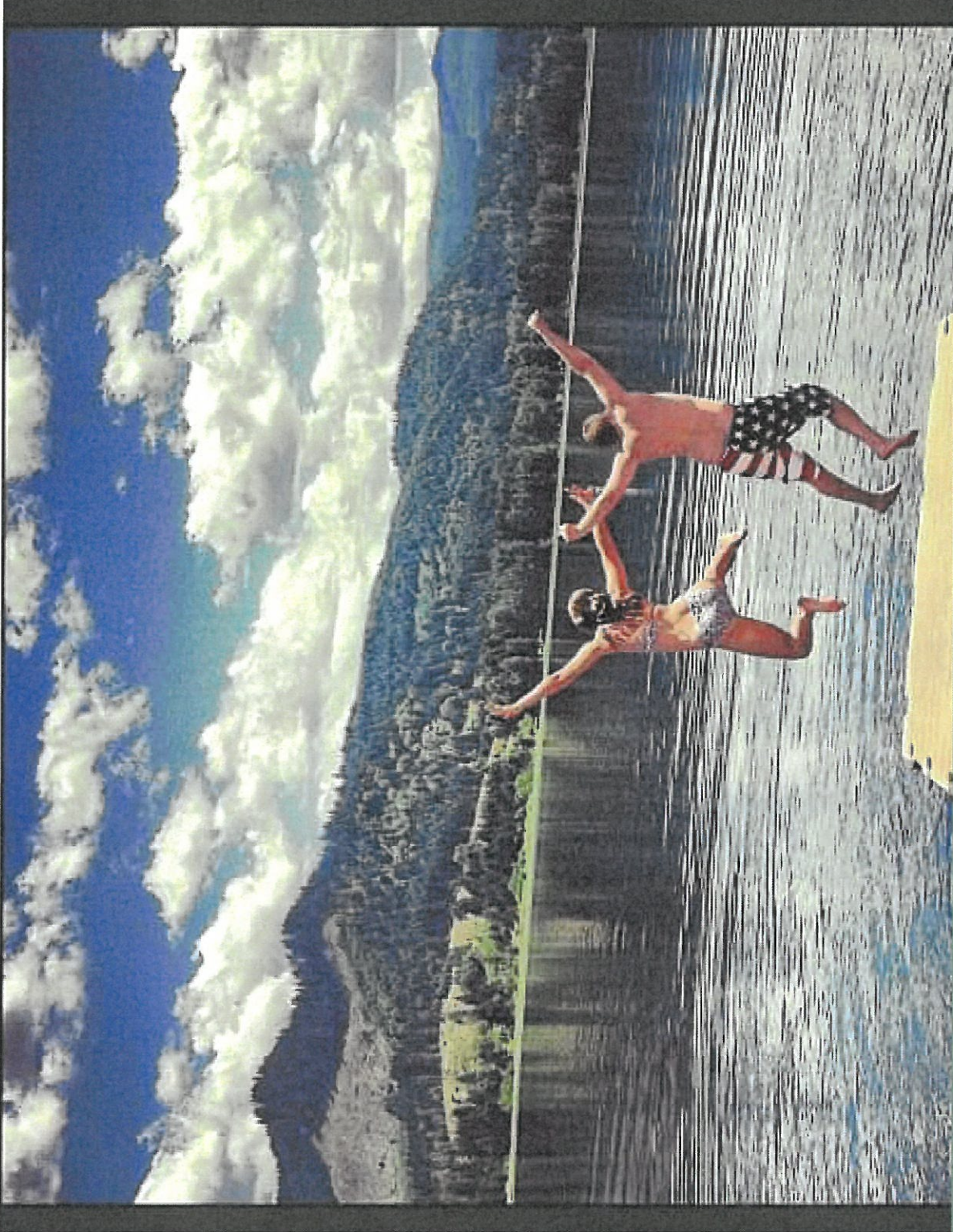


2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

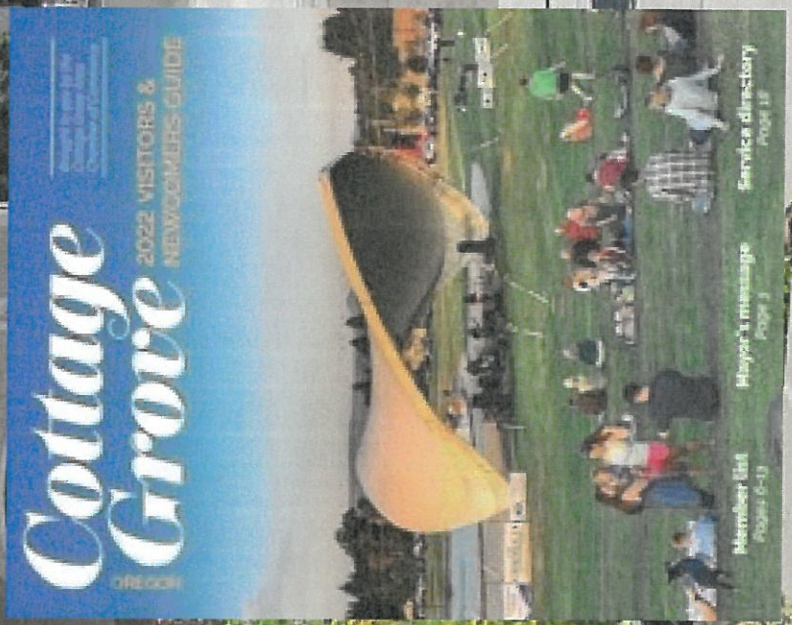
Dale Smith - President	Valerie Nash - Director	Kim Westwang - Director
Tiffanie Williams - Vice President	Shane May - Director	Alan Whitlock - Director
Chrissy Chapman - Treasurer	Natalie Clark - Director	Chalice Savage - Director
Alyssa Gomez - Secretary	Tesla Thoms - Director	Not photographed
Len Blackstone - Past President	Kyle Dooley - Director	Cameron Reiten - Director
Staff: Shauna Neigh - CEO		Stephen Lawn - Director

Georgia Haskell - Office/Membership Manager





2022 - NO MORE MASKS



THANK YOU!

Shauna Neigh
ceo@cgcchamber.com
541-942-2411

