

SURVEY FAVORS TIMBER TOWN THEME

A recent survey conducted by the Planning Commission showed favoritism toward a “timber town” theme for improvements planned for the downtown area. City officials are working with ODOT and the contracted engineering firm, Murrsmith, to prepare the design acceptance package (DAP) which is the next step in moving the project forward. When the original renderings for the Downtown Safety and Streetscapes Plan were made, they included more traditional fixtures like black, white acorn bulbs atop metal light posts, classic park benches and slim, metal-tube bike racks. The lead architect for the project, Dougherty Landscape Architects, prepared three theme boards for the community to consider: classical, timber town, and modern.

The theme boards are available for view on the project page of the city website and residents can still follow the link to the online survey to select which amenities they like and dislike.

The Planning Commission also hosted a booth at the Philomath Farmers’ Market back in July and collected information from attendees at that time. The results were similar to those of the online survey, with strong support for the “timber town” theme amenities that include wood poles for streetlights, wood bike racks and wood benches. Some concerns with wood include its resiliency toward weather and abuse, but there are aesthetic and environmental benefits to consider as well.

The project is on schedule to finish with design and engineering over the next 10-12 months, followed by preparation of the bid package, selection of a contractor, and the start of construction in the spring of 2022.

Visit the website to get more information or access the link to the survey.



COUNCIL APPROVES GRANT PROGRAMS TO ASSIST SMALL BUSINESSES AND SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCIES

At its August 10th meeting, the City Council approved two new grant programs targeting Philomath small businesses and social service agencies that serve Philomath residents. The Small Business Assistance Grant program has \$66,500 to provide to Philomath businesses of 15 or fewer employees that have incurred COVID-19 related expenses. The fund can also be used for future expenses such as installing additional safety measures or providing services in a new way due to social distancing constraints. The maximum award to each business is capped at \$5,000.

The City provided social service assistance totaling \$10,000 in May, and has assigned an additional \$28,500 for the Social Service Assistance Grant

program. The objective of this program is to offer immediate financial assistance to social service organizations that provide services directly to Philomath residents. Agencies must be a 501(c)3 to qualify and must have qualifying COVID-19 related expenses.

Applications for both grants are due to the city by 5:00 p.m. September 25, following which the Finance/Administration Committee will review the applications and decide on grant awards.

For more information about either grant program, visit the city’s website or call City Hall and speak with City Manager Chris Workman, 541-929-6148.

FULL SLATE OF CANDIDATES FILE FOR NOVEMBER 3RD MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL BALLOT

The November 3rd General Election will be full of decisions for Philomath voters. Under the current City Charter requirements, voters elect a Mayor and six City Councilors every two years. At the upcoming election, voters will choose between two candidates for Mayor and 12 candidates for City Council.

The candidate for Mayor receiving the most votes is elected; and for City Council, voters mark their ballots for six City Councilors. The six candidates receiving the most votes are elected. Each elected official will serve a two year term beginning in January 2021 through December 2022.

The candidates for Mayor are (in alphabetical order):

- Doug Edmonds
- Chas Jones

The candidates for City Council are (in alphabetical order):

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| • Jessica Andrade | • Joey McGlinchy |
| • Catherine Biscoe | • Teresa Nielson |
| • Ruth Causey | • Jason Richards |
| • Lawrence E. Johnson | • Thomas Sullivan |
| • Matt Lehman | • Matthew Thomas |
| • David M. Low | • Peggy Yoder |

Copies of each candidate's election filing are available on the City's website. In addition, Benton County will produce a Voters' Pamphlet that each candidate has the opportunity to place a statement in.

Although election rules prevent the use of City resources for campaigns, look for information about possible candidate forums organized by local community groups to be shared in social media channels such as Facebook and Next Door.

CITY MEASURE TO APPEAR ON NOVEMBER BALLOT

Ballot Measure #2-126, Charter Amendment: Mayor and Council Terms and Qualifications will also appear on Philomath voters' ballots. If approved, it would have no impact on this election but would take effect at the next election in 2022. More information about the ballot measure will be provided in next month's City newsletter.



What's on the Calendar ...

A round-up of projects and issues City committees are currently working on and discussing.

Parks Advisory Board: Planning for a new park at Millpond Crossing. Next meeting: Sept. 10 at 5:00 PM

City Council: CARES Act assistance program update & Planning Commission appointment. Next meeting: Sept. 14 at 7:00 PM

Police Committee: Safety code & State changes; Peer review; & second radar sign. Next meeting: Sept. 15 at 3:00 PM

Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee: Reviewing the Housing Needs Analysis. Next meeting: Sept. 16 at 7:00 PM

Planning Commission: Discussing public outreach & feedback methods and creation of a Downtown Design Manual. Next meeting: Sept. 21 at 6:00 PM (if needed)

Inclusivity Ad Hoc Committee: Education, events, outreach and coordination with other public entities. Next meeting: Sept. 22 at 6:00 PM

Finance & Administration Committee: Programs to provide assistance to local businesses and social service agencies through CARES Act funding; City Manager, Attorney and Judge evaluation formats; creation of a Transient Lodging Tax for hotels, motels and RV parks. Next meeting: TBD

**See the calendar on the City's website
for full meeting agendas.**

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weekly meetings notification email:**

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2020 LEAF PICKUP DATES ANNOUNCED

It's a known fact, those beautiful shade-providing leaves on the trees in our yards are going to begin falling over the next month. In anticipation, Republic Services has announced the dates for their leaf pick-up program.

Mark your calendars now for the dates you'll want to set aside for raking them into the curb line:

**October 22
November 5, & 19
December 3 & 17**

More information about the proper method and timing of putting your leaf piles out onto improved (curbed) streets will be included in next month's newsletter.

In the meanwhile, enjoy these last few weeks of shade and sunshine!