

New white paper for 2021
From the Mayor

I believe it was in 2010 when I wrote, for my self mostly, a White paper concerning the purchase of the Old CB Grade School. This was a means for me to organize my thoughts on the topic. I shared it with a few folks but never published it. Why? Perhaps I felt in my position it was best for the community to be heard from first, or, at least, we get to a place where the discussion will be fresh and pertinent.

That time is come. We have begun the “Process”. The property is ours, the City purchased the site lock stock and barrel shape. The leaks are now ours to fix and the emptiness of it is ours to fill. Last night a presentation before the Council shed light on what is needed and gave a ball park on the cost factors. Next week we will hassle over a schedule and such.

I see this as hugely positive. We have a project that bears inspiration and promises future activity. Even if we fight about one specific detail over another each opinion may hold fun and a good potential outcome. We could use some positivity, right? This schedule will put forth a method for residents and businesses to offer their hopes, ideas and insight. Any and all of us may provide input by attending in person (properly distanced and safe), Virtually via Zoom or phone, Email, text and good old words on paper. For my sake avoid social media, sorry.

We hope to be overwhelmed with all kinds of concepts, dreams, visions and whatnot. This will be a brainstorm of a community scale. No idea will be demeaned, all ideas will be heard. The Council will collect and sort and condense these in to a feasible concept. All openly via our technical, Covid imposed, fancy new Virtual meeting system.

A note on that. Meetings are on Zoom live. Meetings will be available in archived modes and we will have a Old Grade School specific page on the City web site. If any one has difficulty accessing modern tech please let us know and we will fit you up with paper and ink.

Over six hundred of you voted, so I know you’re out there and I know you have opinions. Surprise me with more than ten percent of that speaking up. Each with a great idea.

So the City Council sports a fancy concept, then what? We present it for community perusal. This concept may be simple and generalized or complex and deep in the weeds. I have no knowing as yet, this depends on the ideas we are given to work with, see how that works? The concept may be a mix of generics and specifics. It may be tight on one thing and out of focus on another.

Either way we will tackle another round of public input. Criticism, opinion, bullheaded wrongness or inspired clever-ipity (my word, sort of the opposite of

wrongness). Yes this may take some time, I hope not too much. We have waited too long already.

That said there are some maintenance and repair projects onsite the staff could begin as soon as possible. Think drips and stains. We will talk about these too, but on a different timeline. Funding will also be a topic of consideration, naturally. Eventually we will have in hand a firm concept. The capital 'C' Concept. With this we may then dive into technical drawings, plumbing layouts, electrical gremlins and hammer and nails.

What will it be?

It will be Our Gathering place.

At that I would like to post the collection of the potentials I have compiled. I do so to inspire you to add and imagine. What have I missed? Where am I misguided? Which has merit and by reflection which is lame? Or inspired. The are mine, me alone, not the Council or the city staff. My list. I do have a vision, but, this is a community project. Chime in.

This is by no means a comprehensive list. It is one list for edit and expansion. Take these points to build on them, perhaps add details or amenities. Be creative. Help see how within each possibility what facilities and components may be beneficial to the possibility. Is less more or is more, uh, more?

What the heck does that mean? Say we keep a classroom. Do we want wifi? Do we want to keep the old chalk board? Expensive comfy chairs or way to many funky ones? Do we need...? Fill in the details for us. This will greatly help the Concept become clearer and the discussions forward moving.

Ok, my list...

Mind this was originally specific for the Gym building alone. Today we will be discussing the Classrooms too, leading toward a decision to keep them or not.

— — —

The Old Gym has a variety of spaces within.

The north end rooms; the office, the old kitchen, locker rooms and the old library loft. Also the East side bump out room.

Potential programs; collected in sets of like minded categories.

Set one - Seasonal events for community and visitor entertainment;

- Return of the Salmon annual ceremony. (resident centric)
- Halloween festival / costume party. (possible revenue, community)
- Christmas town Party. (resident centric)
- Christmas events (both for resident and visitor)
- New Years eve gala. (possible revenue maker, Community)

- Mardi gras mascarade bingo (?). (possible revenue maker)
- Valentines Day Dance - adult and/or teen party.
- Spring unveiling associated events. (possible revenue maker)
- Sand castle associated events. (Visitor)
- Non fireworks 4th of July picnic. (community, and Visitor)
- Memorial day ceremonies.
- Labor day observances.
- End of Summer bash. (resident centric)
- Stormy weather associated events. (possible revenue maker)
- Thanksgiving community gathering. (resident centric)

Set two - Cultural education and events;

- Cultural education presented by the Clatsop Nehalem Confederated Tribes (CNCT). With possibly...
 - Tribal homelands display,
 - Occasional Daily life living history.
 - Tribal ceremonies.
 - CNCT Canoe long house and launching ramp. (Educational facility)
 - Historic displays, permanent or mobile presentations. (facility)
 - Lewis & Clark National Parks partnership programs. (visitor focus)
 - Such as an interior or exterior mural. (facility)
 - Visiting lectures, classes, seminars and living history. (visitor focus)
 - Early Cannon Beach, History Center partnership and special events.
 - State Parks Partnership beach events and Oregon beach bill

education.

Set three - Sponsored events for education, service, information and enlightenment;

- Health fair - Nutrition fair, Providence Health Care Partnership.
- Blood Drive.
- Wellness activities on scheduled presentations for seniors and /or general residents, such as Diabetic nutrition classes.
- Archeological education and local display (?), PSU partnership.
- PSU partnership for other arts and education
- Education fair, District and Clatsop Community College partnerships.
- Youth job fair, local, state and regional business relationships.

Set four - Revenue potential events;

- Farmers market inclement weather or extended season. Perhaps the new home of Farmers market opening up the Gower city parking and creating an enhanced fair like atmosphere during market days. (both community and visitor)

- Athletic fitness, Winter indoor facility, walking, B-ball, V-ball, etc. Has a potential for some Revenue, residential membership and visitor fees.

- Scheduled activity classes/groups, ti-chi, yoga, fitness with music.

Keeping the space active with all kinds of day to day activities.

- Summer employee roundup for local businesses.

- Business training.

- Business trade show.

- Dog show (Corgi day). (visitor focus)

- Summer camps, weekend youth camps, special education camps, special needs beach camp, theater camp or nature camp.

- Hobby show/fair/swap meet. Charging a fee for space.

- Craft fair. Charging a fee for space.

- Food Fair, Beer making fair, Spirit Fair, Desert/bake sale.

- Book Fair, used book sales, swap books, Author signing event.

- Swap meets, sports show/market. Fishing, cycling, exercise equipment, Kites.

- Concerts for performance, also as a practice space for choir, symphony or local bands. (community and visitor focus)

- Dances or parties with controlled access for beer & wine, or not.

- Non-profit auctions to help local charities.

- Fund raising events... (ideas specific for site management funds.)

- New Roof Auction, brick sales, founder titles.

- Wifi Access & New Tech Concert.

- New Paint Festival.

- The new folding backboard hoop challenge.

- Casino night.

- Movies, sponsored movie night? Astoria Film festival partnership.

- Rentable for any resident or visitor use that fits...

- Weddings, family reunions, club gatherings.

- Quinceanera.

- Conferences, lectures, round tables.

- Corporate Retreat.

- Rally, Town hall, Forums.

- Film industry staging (should a movie be made near by.)

- Lectures & speeches & pannel discussions.

- Antique show.

- Art Auction - any Auction.

- Game night, chess competition, bingo, Game storm.
- Open mic, spoken word or music.

Set five - City focused applications for Government or City functions;

- HRAP inclement weather backup use - Mobile displays.
- A Space for large gathering informational meetings.
- A place for regional gatherings, a south county venue.
- Summer child care, or an indoor foul weather option.
- Emergency support;
 - Emergency Shelter for fire, storm or land slide.
 - All year indoor Training facility for PD/FD.
 - Emergency staging (forest fire support, Search & Rescue),
 - Is Helicopter accessible to Coast Guard and Life Flight.
 - Emergency fair: County, OEM, FEMA partnerships
 - Police, Fire, Life guard - Safety Expo.
- Entrance to town, the first vista of town as you enter from the north,
- Welcoming Kiosk with visitor orientation maps,
- Entrance to town, 'event happenings' sign board.
- Alternate or associate location for the information center.

Whew. That is what I came up with and heard about early on. Rereading this list in the potential light of having the Classroom building included not only do most of these items support the keeping of the classroom there is huge advantage in which many things could occur simultaneously.

Right. One more time.

Council will be posting a schedule for when you will inject thoughts, ideas, vision and energy into this project. Stay tuned. Be involved. Drops us a note or give us a lecture. Our old Gym will soon be Our old Gathering center again.

Mayor Sam.