



Staff Report

For City Council Meeting - 11/06/2019

Subject - Visitors - Skyler Archibald - SEPRD Executive Director - Possible Park Ideas for Gearhart Elementary School Property

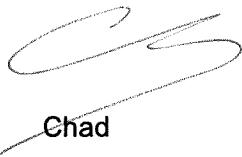
Synopsis: Sunset Empire Park & Recreation District has sent an informal proposal for the council to discuss regarding the Gearhart Elementary School property. The letter is attached and Skyler, as the Executive Director, will be present to elaborate and field questions.

Recommended Motion: None

Legal Analysis: None

Financial Analysis: None

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the name "Chad". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "C" and a trailing flourish.

Chad



October 30, 2019

Mayor Matt Brown
City of Gearhart
PO Box 2510
Gearhart, OR 97138
Cc: Chad Sweet, Gearhart City Manager

Dear Mr. Mayor,

I would like to share information, regarding our recent conversations concerning Gearhart Elementary School and the Sunset Empire Park & Recreation District.

As you know, the Elementary School is available for sale and there has been some discussion from the community that the school space should be preserved for public use, in some form.

Recognizing that need, Sunset Empire Park & Recreation District would like to approach elected officials, City staff and, eventually, the voters of Gearhart with the following proposal:

1. Gearhart residents have a beautifully personalized parkspace and/or facilities on the property as well as the benefits of joining the Sunset Empire Park & Recreation District.
2. Gearhart voters elect to join the Sunset Empire Park & Recreation District.
3. Sunset Empire Park & Recreation District purchases the Gearhart Elementary School property.
4. SEPRD conducts community forums, listening sessions and feedback opportunities to hear what residents want in the property moving forward.
5. SEPRD executes a Park Plan, in accordance with requests of residents.

SEPRD Staff have been in communication with finance consultants with experience in this type of transaction and to the best of our knowledge it is completely feasible. The caveat for SEPRD elected officials is that Gearhart would need to join the District first, before any investment in the property could take place.

We have also been in discussion with the listing agent of the property and understand that although the schools will be relocating in Fall 2020, a sale of their current building is not imminent. There is plenty of time to ensure that the process is well thought out and that the Gearhart community has a chance to provide their input.

From both a personal and community perspective, this is an exciting opportunity. I feel strongly that maintaining recreation space in Gearhart is crucial and this plan would accomplish that as well as meeting an important need for SEPRD.

Thank you for your time,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Skyler".

Skyler Archibald | Executive Director | Sunset Empire Park & Recreation District