

February 26, 2020

Dear Community Resident,

The Sunset Empire Park & Recreation District (SEPRD) was formed in 1969 with the enduring goal of helping our community live healthy, active lives by fostering a sense of inclusiveness through sustainable, educational and recreational programs. We remain committed to this vision. In recent months, a unique opportunity for strengthening our mission has presented itself. We'd like to tell you more about it.

Under the Oregon statute that governs Special Districts, SEPRD has the power to construct, reconstruct, operate and maintain buildings that are necessary for district operations. SEPRD's operations have significantly expanded since 1977, when Sunset Pool first opened. In addition to a full catalog of aquatic programs, SEPRD now offers youth programs, preschool, senior programs, fitness classes, special events and more.

Yet even these expanded programs are not adequate to meet the needs of our residents. The community's interest in classes, youth programs, indoor recreation space and other amenities is greater than what our current facilities allow. To fully serve our community, it's imperative that we expand.

The availability of the Broadway Middle School (BMS) presents a singular opportunity. The BMS property would substantially increase SEPRD indoor space and make possible a larger preschool, indoor gymnasium, fitness programming, community meeting space and more.

As others have pointed out, there are some challenges associated with the BMS property. Built in 1949 and expanded in 1979 and 1994, there are concerns about the building's overall longevity and the possible presence of asbestos in one section of that facility. Our research, however, dictates that these problems are surmountable. We believe that the end result—a property that serves the recreational needs of our community for decades to come—is worth the effort involved.

Acquiring BMS will:

- Keep public property and facilities in the public trust.
- Create vital community space to be used for sport practices, tournaments, community meetings and more.
- Provide District residents and guests with indoor recreation space for basketball, pickleball, volleyball, indoor soccer, fitness classes and other programs.
- Allow SEPRD to stop renting space for many current programs, and free those funds for other purposes.
- Cost substantially less than new construction; approximately 75% less than the project SEPRD proposed in 2018.

If you support this project or if you have any concerns, please consider sharing your perspective:

- Contact SEPRD Staff: [info@sunsetempire.com](mailto:info@sunsetempire.com)
- Contact the SEPRD Board of Directors: 1140 Broadway, Seaside, OR 97138 or [info@sunsetempire.com](mailto:info@sunsetempire.com)
- Attend an SEPRD Board Meeting and offer public comment. Board Meetings are on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 5:15pm at the Bob Chisholm Community Center (1225 Avenue A, Seaside, OR 97138)

Thank you for your time and consideration. The decisions we make together in the coming months will shape the future of our community and we appreciate your attention.

Sincerely,

SEPRD Management Team:

Marcus Runkle      Darren Gooch      Shelly Owen

Levi Conner      Skyler Archibald      Justin Smith