

Submitter: Dana Merryday
On Behalf Of: Bohemia Foundation
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On
Capital Construction
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5531

Dear Ways and Means Capital Construction Subcommittee members,

My name is Dana Merryday and I am both an actively engaged Cottage Grove resident as well as serving on our City Council. I am writing to show my support for the Lane County Coalition of Recreation, Arts, and Athletics (CoRAA). Our City Council offers its unanimous support for the Bohemia Foundation, and CoRAA in helping the community complete north-end improvements at Bohemia Park.

Bohemia Park is a nearly 30 year journey from an abandoned rail yard to the beautiful gathering space located in the heart of our community. The funding request for the Bohemia Foundation will cover the last remaining costs of completing the final phase of the Park's development. The north entryway was designed and then received funding from the Economic Development Act and Oregon Parks, along with contributions from the City of Cottage Grove. In the time from the awarding of the grants and submitting the bids, costs increased to not allow all of the planned features to be completed. Working with the bid winner parts were trimmed from the plan but all supporting infrastructure was installed so that these deleted features can be added as funding becomes available. Most essential as far as public safety in our eyes is the water tower portion of the splash pad. Besides adding to the recreation possibilities, this feature will host an electronic reader board with back up power that convey community announcements in good times and serve as a beacon to alert citizens during crises such as the recent ice storm. While we had set up an emergency shelter we lacked any effective way to notify the public.

In addition these park improvements will greatly benefit local families by providing recreation and gathering space in a community where the median income is \$39,000 and disposable income scarce.

The deleted features are all shovel ready, permitted, designed, and ready to go once the funding is available. This is a one time ask to complete an epic project.

The groups that make up CoRAA have raised \$21 million dollars and are requesting \$6.34 million to COMPLETE seven important capital projects, in both urban and rural areas of Lane County.

Thank you for the giving of your time and dedication to Oregon citizens and for your support of this important coalition.

Very gratefully, Councilor Dana Merryday, Cottage Grove