

Coffee with the Mayor

Ser 21

Spent a few days in Portland visiting the daughter's family and enjoyed a few cups of Stumptown coffee and cups from the coffee shop called Heart. Good times!

Humphreys Park has been getting a lot of attention in the past few weeks! Or guess I should the shelter houses at the park have been getting the attention. The East Shelter house has been in need of an update for some time, especially the windows. This structure was built in the 1930's by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and the windows were single pane glass and varied in size when installed. Over the years a window would get broken and be replaced again with single pane glass. The glass, when broken, would create shards that could easily cut through skin if not careful. In determining priorities as to need, replacing the windows became priority number 1. The windows were measured, and new double hung windows of insulated glass, with screens, were ordered. Knowing it had been many years since the original windows were installed and not sure how to go about installation of the new windows, one of the smaller windows became the test case. As it turned out, the original wooden frames were solid and didn't need to be replaced making the install process better than expected. One of the frames required the removal of ½ in of wood to allow the installation of the new window. Over the course of over a week, city workers installed all the new windows, installed new trim and painted both inside and out. Overall, the shelter house not only looks much better but is better insulated and safer! Thanks to the recent purchase of chairs and tables for the Roy Clark building and the West Shelter House, all the chairs in the East Shelter House are now the same type! Next on the list includes painting the walls and the floor!

The West Shelter House is also getting a much-needed update and facelift! An overall plan was prepared on what the facility needed, to include tables and chairs for the inside. It was decided to cover the gable ends with vinyl siding and enclose the overhangs making the outside look much better and maintenance free. On each side there are two wooden sections that include 4 single pane windows each and wooden siding in need of replacement. The evening sun shining through the windows on the west side made the inside much warmer than needed. The decision was made to focus on the west side first and replace the 4 windows in each section with 2 that better reflected sunlight and could be opened if needed and replace the wooden siding with vinyl as well making sure the area was well insulated. In addition to enclosing the overhang, new energy-efficient lights were installed. The overall appearance of the facility has improved thanks to the recent efforts of John Cotter, a member of the Park Committee, and painting by city employees. When complete, the facility will be much more energy efficient. New tables and chairs were ordered as well. Heads up, the new chairs and tables are black!

Sad to say, there is one type of attention that is not the positive type. I was informed this morning that the gravel in the area where the carnival sets up was heavily damaged by a vehicle or vehicles doing donuts. This has happened in the past, but the damage was much more severe this morning! The additional time and resources it takes to fix this damage takes away from areas of improvement elsewhere. This is true with the restrooms as well! Vandalism of any type diverts resources that can better be used elsewhere and can eventually lead to closing facilities the public utilizes!