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**Oregon City/County
Management Association**

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FIRST QUARTER 2018

City of La Pine:

First “Small City Pilot” of Sustainable City Year Program



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First “Small City Pilot” through SCYP Launches in La Pine

By Cory Misley, City Manager, La Pine

It is a special feeling to have a unique and beneficial project, based on years of persistence, come to fruition for the community one serves. Last month the City of La Pine with the University of Oregon’s Sustainable Cities Initiative launched the first-ever Small City Pilot of their Sustainable City Year Program (SCYP). Over the coming year, approximately ten courses ranging in topics from planning and journalism to passive solar heating and landscape architecture design will focus their efforts to provide tangible recommendations to La Pine. The time and effort by both the city and SCYP to make this a reality has been extensive. Together we recognized that smaller cities have to balance the day-to-day needs while maintaining long-range planning and capital projects with limited (but dynamic) staff resources—making them prime candidates for an infusion of energy and ideas.

Megan Banks, SCYP Program Manager, and I first spoke in passing nearly two years ago. The quick takeaway for each of us was, “why doesn’t SCYP try to serve smaller public entities in Oregon?” and more importantly “how can we make that happen?” Through many conversations, consultation with the La Pine City Council, and coordinated planning we were able to find a path forward to get us to



this point. The process of making sure it was a good fit and a win-win for both the city and SCYP was crucial.

Some of the areas in need of creative approaches and planning included downtown redevelopment; bicycle and pedestrian connectivity; leveraging an urban renewal agency; community nonprofit assistance; implementation of complete streets; and specifically conceptual design of a publicly-owned parcel as a city center and transit location.



We were able to sync course outcomes to those needs while infusing broad public engagement and sustainability principles as the cherry on top. Many of the traditional downtown and multi-modal transportation elements seen in cities are missing from La Pine, as having only been incorporated for just over 10 years.

As with any project or program the question of funding had to be answered. We were fortunate for Megan Banks and SCYP to facilitate bringing The Ford Family Foundation as a partner into the equation. Their mission to support and foster Successful Citizens and Vital Rural Communities has roots in La Pine prior to incorporation, and it was a natural fit for them to assist in the development of student learning objectives coupled with supporting a growing rural community. It has been a pleasure to work with all involved, especially the faculty members who have experience with

SCYP and the process of fitting the outcomes wanted by the City with the necessary learning objectives. Furthermore, it has been a valuable learning experience and exercise for the city to think deeply about the status of projects and priorities, and to be ambitious but realistic with what we want to move forward in the next handful of years.

On January 12 over 50 students, faculty and SCYP staff joined by another 50 La Pine community members, elected officials and staff filled the La Pine Senior Center for the SCYP Kickoff Event. The energy in the room was palpable. We simultaneously launched the first-ever Small City Pilot while foreshadowing the next chapter of development within the city of La Pine. The process has been worthwhile, and yet we are more enthusiastic than ever as the best is yet to come with results around the corner.



SAVE THE DATE

July 10-13, 2018

OCCMA Summer Conference

Mt. Bachelor Village Resort in Bend

The OCCMA Professional Development Committee is putting together an excellent educational program. Watch the OCCMA website and future OCCMA newsletters for more information.