

NEWS TIMES

GUEST OPINION

Council set goals for city

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Each year Forest Grove's governing body sets broad goals to help guide the city administration and departments as they plan for the coming budget year.

This year, the city council considered the Community Vision Statement, gathered citizen input at the Town Meeting in January, and held a council retreat in February to discuss and identify priorities for the budget year, which runs from July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009.

Then, the city council approved the following goals for fiscal year 2008-09 at the meeting on March 11, 2008:

GOAL 1: Promote safe, livable and sustainable neighborhoods and a prosperous dynamic city.

GOAL 2: Promote a prudent financial plan to maintain service levels.

GOAL 3: Promote the interest and needs of Forest Grove in regional affairs.

In support of all three goals, I have been selected as one of eight mayors to present a city project to the Mayors' Institute on City Design in May in Portland. The presentation will be evaluated by the institute and the city will be given a report on the project's feasibility.

Metro, the Portland area's regional government, is providing staff assistance for this presentation. More information on the institute can be found at www.micd.org.

Becoming a "green" city is the essence of the city's new Vision Statement.

One part of that effort is access to public transportation within the city. This issue was mentioned many times during the Annual Town Meeting discussions and the council spent much of Monday afternoon at an evening meeting with Tri-Met officials and others concerning options for expanded services.

In addition, the city lent its support to Earth Hour 2008, which was held at 8 p.m. on Saturday, March 15.

Objectives to meet next year's council goals have been identified and will be considered during the budget process as available resources are reviewed.

Richard Kidd is the mayor of Forest Grove.

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