



A place where families and businesses thrive.

CITY RECORDER USE ONLY:

AGENDA ITEM #: 1. A.

MEETING DATE: 04/26/2021

FINAL ACTION: Presentations

CITY COUNCIL MEMORANDUM

TO: *City Council*

FROM: *Jesse VanderZanden, City Manager*

PROJECT TEAM: *Peter Truax, Mayor*
Jesse VanderZanden, City Manager
Beverly Maughan, Executive Assistant

DATE: *April 26, 2021*

SUBJECT: ***"If I Were Mayor" Student Contest***

The "If I Were Mayor" 2021 Student Contest is sponsored by the Oregon Mayors Association. The contest was advertised through the March utility bill insert, FGSD Peachjar, City ad in the News Times, City website and Facebook. Applications were due on April 9.

Mayor Truax is pleased to announce that seven (7) entries were received:

- Poster category for grades 4 – 5: Rylynn Edwards
Averi Gustafson
Kristyna Medel
Janessa Mtoubsi
- Essay category for grades 6 – 8: Payton Edwards
Alice Feigel
Andrea Richardson
- Digital Media Presentation Category for grades 9 – 12: No entries

Students will be recognized at the City Council Meeting on April 26. Winners will receive a cash prize from the City of Forest Grove.

The winning entry for each category will be submitted to the state level where it will compete against other city winners for the chance of winning a prize worth \$500. The winners at the state level will be announced during the Oregon Mayors Association Summer Conference to be held July 29-31, 2021, in North Bend.

The entries are attached.

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If I Were Mayor



I would create a center for CDL kids whose parents are working



I would have a volunteer cemetery clean up day once a month

from May to October.



I would have a community garden and sell plants, vegetables and fruit. The proceeds would go to schools to help fund extras for example a basketball hoop at FCS.



I would have a parade for different cultures holidays for example Dia de los Muertos.



By Averi
Gustafson

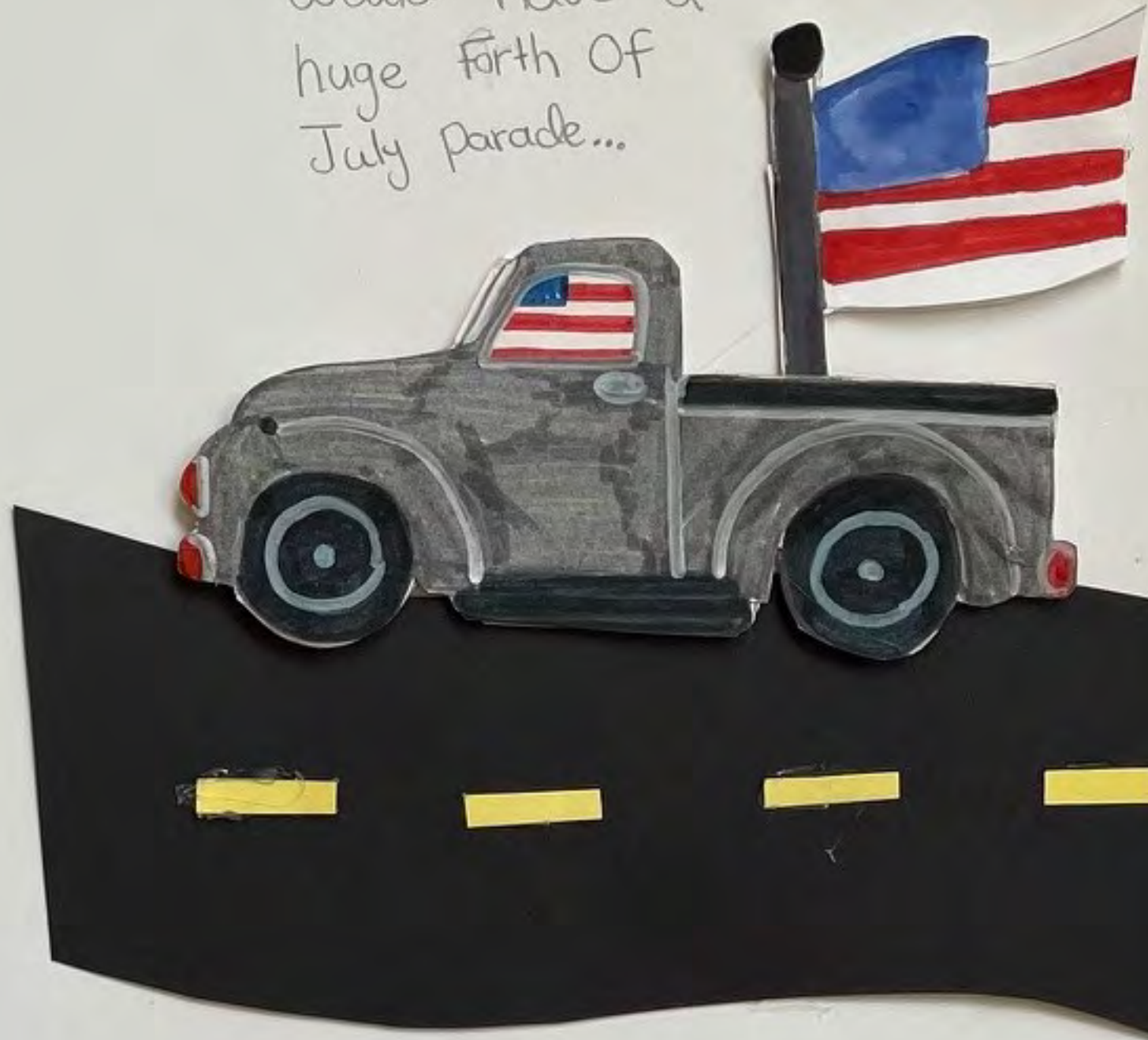
Forest Grove

If I Was Mayor...

If I Was Mayor,
I would have Summer
Reading Programs for
Kids of all ages....



If I Was mayor I
would have a
huge 4th of
July parade...

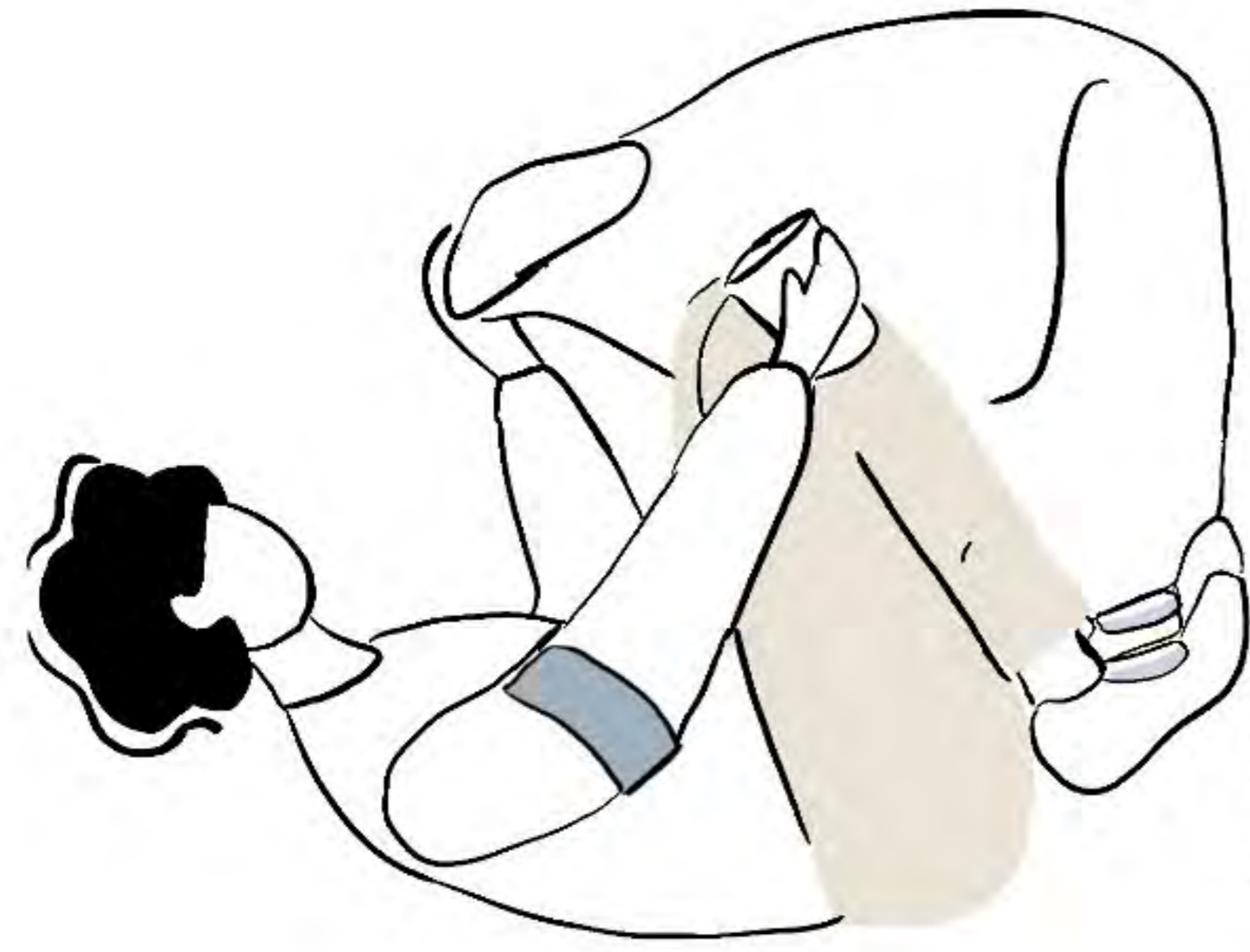


If I was Mayor, I
would have more parks
and Cleaner places
for Kids to play...



I would also have large
Community gardens around town
where anyone can come and
get fruits, veggies, and flowers...





Racial Equity:

“Mayors are in the position to lead the fight for meaningful racial equity, which includes rooting out discrimination in police treatment, as well as real investment in communities of color.”

-As mayor I would invite current leaders to the table so we could create meaningful change in the fight towards racial equity.

Pollution:

Hold classes to teach people how to reuse their unwanted items. This would be a fun way to teach people how to reuse, recycle, and reduce.

Food Waste Reduction:

Make it easier to donate food and create a way to reduce food waste. Create a “Good Faith” Food Donation Initiative: Allow restaurants to donate their leftovers or food that otherwise would be thrown out, to anyone they see fit with reduced liability if done within good faith.





What I Would Do As Mayor
 By: Janessa M.



Keep Forest Grove
 Clean and beautiful.
 I would require
 recycling can by every
 trash can. Pick up
 last sat of every
 month.



Covid-19
 Partner with Med
 students to get extra
 credit for helping in the
 urgent care/hospital.
 Have donation drive for
 areas for people to donate
 supply. Park to making

Improve effectiveness of shelters.
 Use old building no one is using/renting
 in for the homeless.
 Offer a free medical/dental
 clinic once a
 month. Homeless people
 need

Help end Homelessness

If I Were Mayor

By: Payton Edwards

If I were the mayor, I would give equity and equality to all citizens of Forest Grove. I think it is very important that everyone feels as equal and accepted as anybody else. When we all have respect and show kindness to one another, it makes our community stronger and more unified. If I were mayor of Forest Grove I would take action to obtain this goal and make a difference in our community.

In order to have respect for all, we must understand different cultures and backgrounds. To do this, the city could hold monthly workshops that are open to the public to learn about these topics. Each month could be about a different culture. The classes would talk about the foods, clothing, traditions, language, and many other parts of a culture. There would also be separate workshops for kids and adults. The adult classes would be more in depth and have more information, while the kids could be more hands on learning. Plus, I would charge a small fee to attend these workshops, and give the proceeds to charity. To be more specific, charities such as Chinese For Affirmative Action, Equal Justice Initiative, and Muslim advocates. Supporting these charities is a good way to help these causes outside of our town.

Another way kids could understand cultures better is in school. I would do this by having a district wide "Culture Month". This would be a whole month of school where we dedicate a portion of the day to teaching about how people live all around the world. This will teach kids at a young age to be accepting of everyone and their differences. Studies have shown that those who are brought up in culturally open minded educational environments have self-confidence, awareness, appreciation, and diverse

beliefs. It also raises children's educational success and academic achievement.

I think that citizens should have a say on the changes of their community and they deserve to be heard. Hence, having meetings with people of all different races once a month. In these meetings we would talk about the changes they would like to see in their community, to overall better it. I would take these suggestions into consideration, and find ways to implement them.

Our differences should be recognized and celebrated. We would do this by having town events to celebrate everybody's cultures and races. There would be food carts, games, live music, and so many more fun activities. For example, for an Asian themed event, there would be games like Chinese yo-yos, kites, and jump ropes. In addition to the traditional games, there would be traditional food such as dumplings, noodles, and wontons. As for music, there would be a band playing ethnic music. This would be the same for every culture.

Food plays a big role in culture, and it is fun to try foods from other cultures. By having more diverse farmers markets, we can taste and try different foods from all over the world. To make the farmers market even more fun and engaging we could have food contests. I would ask people of the community that are willing to come and make a traditional or family meal. It would be open to the public to taste and vote for the best. The winner would receive gift cards to local shops around town.

If I were mayor of Forest Grove, these would be the changes I would hope to see in my community. I believe in order to grow as a community, state, and country we have to have an open mind. We need to let members of our community know that everyone is welcome here, and if I were mayor that's exactly what I'd do.

If I Were Mayor....

By Alice H. Feigel

If I were mayor, I would make sure that every child would have the chance to go to school. I would make sure that all of the schools have the things they need. I would make sure that each school would have good after school activities for students to encourage extra passions. Lastly, I would make sure that the school lessons would be enjoyable, as well as productive.

If I were mayor, I would make sure that all the schools had all of the things they needed. It is important for teachers to have everything they need in order to teach the lesson. It may be hard, or even impossible, to teach certain lessons without certain supplies. How I would do this, is I would have simple fundraisers, working with the local schools, to raise money. This of course, is in the case that we don't have enough money to fund the schools already. But not only would this be a good way to raise money, it would also teach kids about the importance of hard work. I think that is a valuable lesson.

If I were mayor, I would make sure that each school would have good after school activities for students to encourage extra passions. I think it's important to make sure that every kid has a chance to try something new, and keep doing the things they love. But sometimes there aren't opportunities to keep doing things you found that you like. For example, say your class did a section on poetry. You loved it, and you keep doing it, but you want to share it. A lot of the time, when this happens, the teacher doesn't have much time to fit in extra things like sharing poetry. That's why I think we should have things like poetry clubs, debate teams, things like that. I think it's important to make sure every kid has the chance to keep doing what they love.

If I were mayor, I would make sure that the school lessons are enjoyable, as well as productive. I think it's important to have fun while learning. I'm not saying that every class should be like recess, but still fun. When I was lower elementary, my school counselor would come into class once a week to teach us about how the brain works. She used little puppets as characters, and made up stories to teach us about the subject. I remember learning so much, but I never remember being bored during her classes. I think most, if not all classes should be like this.

In conclusion, if I were mayor, I would make sure that every school would have the supplies they needed, that there would be programs and clubs to help students pursue their passions, and the lessons in schools would not only make sure that students were learning, but enjoying themselves as well.

Andrea Richardson



If I Were Mayor

It has been said that “true leaders always practice the three R’s: Respect for self, Respect for others, Responsibility for all their actions.” If I were mayor, I would practice these three R’s. I would be respectful and responsible. I would be a true leader.

If I were mayor, I would respectfully make my voice and ideas heard, and I would listen to others and make sure they are heard and respected. Even more than that, I would collaborate with others, so their ideas have a better chance of being noticed and taking shape, but I wouldn’t compromise safety and reason. In all, everyone’s ideas would get to be heard, even if I don’t agree with them.

To be a responsible mayor, I would watch out for the town. I would warn citizens of oncoming danger, not to scare them, but to inform them, so they can prepare. For example, I would make the townspeople aware of new incidences of COVID, so they can decide for themselves what to do. I would also warn them of potential emergencies, like the fires we had last year; I would alert the citizens to the possibility of evacuating, and I would notify them of safe places to go. I would also create a backup plan in case the first plan doesn’t work.

Another way I would be a responsible mayor is I would engage in projects and problems. A big problem right now is homelessness. If, for example, an owner of a convenient store complains that homeless people are living on his property, I would go to the owner of that convenient store and assess the situation. I would also speak with the homeless people and ask what is going on in their lives and what each person wants or needs. Then, I would try my best to help both parties. Let’s say the owner of the property wants the homeless people to leave because they didn’t ask permission, and they aren’t paying rent. Furthermore, he is losing business since fewer people are coming into his store because they don’t want to go past the homeless people. But, the homeless people need somewhere to live; they can’t afford a home, and they can’t find a job.

After assessing the situation, we would discuss potential solutions. I would let everyone have a chance to share and talk about each other’s ideas. If the problem still has not been solved, then I would try my best to give good suggestions of my own. For instance, I could suggest that the owner of the store offer the homeless people a job at the store in exchange for a place to live in the back of his property. Or I could suggest, if it’s winter, that the homeless people move to the Winter Shelter. In addition, I could help ensure that job openings are posted at the shelter to aid the guests in finding a job. After the discussion, I would give them a time frame to resolve the issue. Then, I would come back to ensure that the problem was resolved.

Even more, because homelessness is a widespread issue, I would create a solution to hopefully lessen this problem. I would like to create a place for homeless people to live all year round, but not for free. Here is how this place would work: If someone needed a room to stay in, they would have to do work at this place to get it. For example, instead of having breakfast made and served for them (like in a hotel), some people living there would have to help make the food and serve it. Other guests could be responsible for cleaning. There could even be a chicken coop to provide more food and other work opportunities, such as cleaning out the chicken coop or gathering eggs. The more jobs there are, the more opportunities for someone to get off the streets. The main idea is that guests would have to contribute to the well being of other guests and the maintenance of this shelter in exchange for a place to stay.

In order to fund this project, I would use some of the money the town already gets from taxes, not ask for more taxes. I would also collaborate with builders and ask for donations of any kind. I would also ask for as many volunteers as possible to work at this shelter to keep it orderly until there are enough occupants to manage it. While people are living there, they could look for a permanent job somewhere else. So, this idea could help people who are struggling to get back on their feet.

Overall, I would try my very best to be an honorable mayor by using good principles, listening to others, and striving to help the town. I would be my best self and do my best work to help our community in a respectful and responsible way. That's what I would do if I were mayor.

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