

Harrison Swift

If I Were Mayor...

By: Harrison Swift

I'm very nearly certain that every second grader has, at some point, dreamed of becoming president. But why not be mayor instead? Being mayor allows you to improve people's lives on a much more personal level, and offers some intriguing possibilities. I'll be going over some of my ideas, including recreation and safety plans. I'll also address the growing issue of homelessness. So here's what I would do... if I were mayor.

First, I'll cover the problem of homelessness. Oregon ranks seventh in the United States for total number of homeless, and fifth for homeless per 10,000 population. I believe that Redmond can help with that. I would propose the city build a designated homeless camp, somewhere along Maple Avenue. It would have bunkhouses, an area for tents, and a program to help people get jobs. The camp would be built on tax dollars, and would charge its patrons 5-10 dollars a night. I think that this would really help homelessness in Redmond (and Oregon as a whole), and could aid the homeless get in getting back on their feet.

Second, I would give the Cascade Swim Center a makeover. The current one is getting a little run-down, and could benefit from some upgrades. Yes, I do realize that there was a bill to upgrade the pool that didn't make it. However, there are more young families than ever moving to Redmond, so I think it would pass this second time. Two separate pools would be a big plus, like the amazing pool in Madras. One would be heated to about 88 degrees, the other to 82 degrees. The price would be raised to \$5.00 for adults, \$2.50 for children. I don't know about you, but I'd certainly pay to go to a nice heated pool.

Third, I would have a new fire station built. With the rapidly growing community in southern Redmond, people need added safety. I would propose a firehouse between Canal Boulevard and the cemetery. There's a good-sized space, and the station would cover the large housing district that makes up the area of Redmond.

In addition to a fire station, the residential community along and around Canal could benefit greatly from a new police station. I would propose the police station go directly across the cemetery entryway from the firehouse. There's ample room for both structures, and this would help the city council reach their goal to make Redmond the "safest community in Oregon".

Finally, I would expand the airport. There's a huge amount of land south of the airport, which would be a good place to add multiple runways. This would at least double the size, and would attract corporations that would improve the economy. A new parking lot could be to the southwest, allowing for an increasing number of patrons. All in all, this new airport would bring more business to Redmond.

Well, that sums up what I would do if I were mayor. I hope you found this interesting and helpful, and I look forward to the contest next year!