

Free Fill Dirt with Debris!

Deschutes Rim Clinic Foundation

By Sue Knapp, Board Chair

The Deschutes Rim Clinic Foundation is excited to be entering into the final phase prior to construction on a new Deschutes Rim Health Clinic. We are meeting with the architect and contractor in mid-September to go over contract details, budget, and pre-construction activities, and then sign the contract to begin the on-the-ground project in early October.

A primary pre-construction activity is the hauling away of all the dirt piles and other debris that has sat on clinic property since the beginning of the city's civic center project. While it was a convenience and cost-savings for them to deposit it there, it has been a headache for us trying to get rid of it. No one wants 'fill dirt with debris' (asphalt, concrete, large rocks, and rocky dirt with weeds), including our contractor. Unfortunately, the city doesn't have the capacity, funds and /or equipment to move it. If you know of anyone wanting 'fill dirt with debris', send them over to the clinic. Otherwise, we will need to pay the high cost of an excavator to haul it away.

A date for the ground-breaking event has been pushed back and pushed back through the summer due to circumstances beyond our control. But we are confident now that such an event will happen in early October, October 9th to be exact. That is when construction is anticipated to start and event organizers will be back from their September vacations. In a few weeks, residents in South Wasco County will be receiving 'Save the Date' postcards. The good news is that October will certainly have better weather than what we had in mid-summer! So, maybe the delay was a good thing.

The event will be held on clinic property, maybe even where the 'fill dirt with debris' was located (hopefully it will be gone by then). If it's still there, we will hold the event behind the clinic building toward the rim. Expect some speeches from elected officials, the foundation board, and others who have partnered with us along the way. Maybe some music. Certainly food and fun. And diagrams of YOUR new medical clinic, posters with names of supporters, donors and funders, status of the capital campaign, and perhaps some special announcements. Don't miss this exciting and long-anticipated event! Mark Saturday, October 9th on your calendar and come out for a celebratory event! Check out the Foundation website for more information: www.deschutesrimclinicfoundation.org. Or ask your questions via info.drcfoundation@gmail.com.

We are still trudging away applying for grants with the capable lead of Westby & Associates. We have applied to several new foundations recently (Autzen and Reser) to be followed by applications to The Ford Family Foundation and Collins Foundation. While we are still on track to receive a loan, we are looking into other opportunities for major funding. Specifically, the American Rescue Plan has targeted funding for rural health care and we are seeking funding via the Congressionally Directed Spending process through our two senators, Senator Wyden and Senator Merkley. If successful, these funds will be used to offset the debt service on the loan.

The Community Capital Campaign was fruitful for us as we received nearly \$126,000 from community donations. Your donations are always welcome and are tax deductible. If you are interested in continuing your support or contributing for the first time, you may make a check out to Deschutes Rim Clinic Foundation and send to PO Box 219, Maupin, OR. We thank you for your support!

We lost THE major player in our community campaign, Michael Wilson from Westby & Associates, in a car accident in early July. Michael was killed on I84 as he was heading back to Maupin from Joseph, OR where he was collaborating on a health clinic construction project there. Michael was a friend, compatriot, and enthusiastic strategic guider and supporter for us; his death hit us hard because we had become like 'family'. Mike had been with this project since early 2017 and was instrumental in helping us and the city obtain funding through the State legislature. He was the enthusiastic emcee at our first major fund-raising dinner and auction event in Wamic and was cued up to be our emcee at the ground-breaking event. We will be honoring Michael at that event. Mike was also instrumental in the success of Maupin's new civic center and the South Wasco County Library. Mike Westby, the CEO of Westby & Associates, has stepped in to help cover the bases and provide valuable guidance.

The District Board will soon be giving the oath of office to its fifth and final Board member. Don Jacklin applied for the vacant 2-year position and the Board overwhelmingly approved! We are excited to have Don join us as he brings experience, enthusiasm and a willingness to be engaged. There are a number of priority projects on the horizon to advance health care in South Wasco County via Deschutes Rim Health Clinic, and Don, as well as the rest of the Board and clinic staff, will be an integral part of the success of those projects. Welcome, Aboard, Don!