Don Leonard announces bid for Bend City Council

by Bend_Weekly_News_Sources

Former Planning Commission Chair and Budget Committee Member Tosses his Hat in the RingBEND â€“ Former Bend Planning Commission Chairman, Don Leonard, today announced his candidacy for a position on the Bend City Council. Leonard intends to seek City Council Position 4, a position currently held by Jim Clinton. Clinton has not yet announced his intentions.

Don Leonard announced his candidacy for City Council today - submitted photo As part of his campaign, Leonard plans to discuss three major areas: affordable housing, fiscal management, and reengaging the community in finding strong effective leaders to run the city.

â€œWith the slump in the housing market there is the time and opportunity for developers and municipalities to work together to tackle the affordable and workforce housing issues. Also, with the depressed housing prices we need to explore ways to help get working families into the housing stock,â€• Leonard said.

As a community member of Bend, he has been involved in various committees and commission. "It is time I take my experiences and lessons to the next level." He continued, "As a council member I will strive to maintain Bendâ€™s hometown feel with its urban amenities. As chair and a member of the Planning Commission, I understand the importance of smart and managed growth.â€•

â€œAs a budget committee member I am always learning of the difficulties of the city but believe I can change the standard approach and really start to ask questions this council hasnâ€™t.â€•

â€œAs a candidate and council person I will maintain open lines of communication with the community and its citizens.â€• stated Leonard. â€œI am looking forward to the opportunity to discuss and consider everyoneâ€™s vision for the City of Bend."

BACKGROUND:

Leonard works as a Manager/Engineer at CoEnergy, a propane service provider in Central Oregon. He moved to Bend from the San Francisco Bay area in 1987 as a result of a job transfer with Pacific Gas and Electric Company, and was the Area Manager for PGT and subsidiary of PG&E from 1987 until 2000. Leonard has been with CoEnergy since itâ€™s opening in 2001.

Leonard is married to Paula Bradford and has two sons: Adam, 26, and Schuyler, 23. Both sons attend the University of Oregon. He also has three step-children: Gena, a partner in Zerbin-Mills Marketing in Bend; Brendan, 22, a student at PSU; and Rachel, 21, a student at COCC.

Leonardâ€™s community involvement spans 11 years, beginning with a stint as an EDCO Board Member from 1997 thru 2000. He was on the Bend Planning Commission from 1998 thru 2006, was Chair of the Bend Planning Commission during 2003-2004, and graduated in 2000 from Leadership Bend. Leonard was on the Leadership Bend Advisory Committee from 2002-2003, and has served as a Bend Budget Committee member and Affordable Housing Committee from 2007 to present.

He has a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from Cal Poly at San Luis Obispo, a Masters of Science in Mechanical Engineering from the University of California at Berkeley, and a Masters in Business (MBA) from the University of Phoenix. Leonard is also a registered Engineer in both Oregon and California.

In his free time, he enjoys mountain and road biking, and cross-country skiing.

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