COTTAGE GROVE CITY COUNCIL
2017 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

MISSION STATEMENT
We promote a vibrant community by providing a foundation of services for all.

QUALITY OF LIFE
Strengthen recreation and physical activities within the community by supporting a variety of community events, developing entertainment, health and fitness opportunities, improving physical accessibility and removing barriers, addressing the needs of youth, preserving historical character and maintaining park and open spaces.

- Continue development of City Parks (Bohemia, Row River Trailhead) and connections between existing bicycle paths or trails.
- Expand programs to ensure safe and enjoyable park spaces are well maintained, free from litter, vandalism and graffiti.
- Support volunteerism, growth and development of non-profits and service club opportunities.
- Maintain the feel of the community by strengthening opportunities for citizens to be a part of the community and build a sense of place.
- Explore opportunities to encourage the use of upstair spaces downtown.
- Create programs to encourage the use and maintenance of vacant commercial and residential buildings.
- Hold discussion regarding disposal of yard debris – solid waste collection and backyard burning.

PUBLIC SAFETY
Ensure a safe and secure community.

- Maintain and expand police relationships within the community.
- Explore education or information opportunities to enhance crime prevention, traffic, pedestrian and bicycle safety.
- Conduct concentrated and targeted enforcement of vehicle, bicycle and pedestrian traffic safety issues.
- Pursue and develop enhancements to pedestrian/bicycle crossing safety on Highway 99 and downtown.
- Develop methods to hold repeat offenders accountable and reduce jail recidivism.
- Active support for community groups operating neighborhood watch.
- Advocating on the State and Federal level to protect and strengthen the City’s enforcement opportunities.

INFRASTRUCTURE
Continue to raise community awareness of the public infrastructure (water, wastewater, stormwater, streets, parks, fiber) impact on economic development, the environment and public safety. Develop and implement plans to improve the condition and enhance the capacity of infrastructure to protect the public’s assets while minimizing the financial impact to citizens and protecting the environment.

- Review Capital Improvement Plan to fund, replace and maintain community infrastructure.
- Explore and establish new means of funding street improvements on a local or regional approach.
- Explore funding opportunities to implement select portions of the Main Street Refinement Plan.
- Increase awareness of floodplain issues.
- Continue to develop and expand fiber network to seek Fiber to the Premises.
- Create partnerships with local business/property owners to enhance public parking.
- Improve the continuity of pedestrian sidewalk facilities.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Strengthen the environment for economic development through partnerships with the Chamber of Commerce, Economic Development Committee, Economic/Business Improvement District and education providers, streamlining processes, reinforcing service values, enhancing tourism and promoting the community.

- Conduct an analysis of the inventory of available land for residential development and explore methods to facilitate improved housing stock.
- Continue participation in Main Street program, assist in moving to the “Performing” level.
- Continue to expand grant opportunities for downtown business improvements and seek additional funding source for economic development enhancement.
- Enhance and pursue sports tourism opportunities.
- Restore the Armory for use to provide possible convention or meeting facilities downtown.

GOVERNANCE
Engage the public by enhancing opportunities for citizens to be involved and informed. Strengthen the development of effective and responsible leadership within the community. Seek opportunities for efficiencies with other agencies. Participate in advocacy efforts at the State and County levels.

- Hold a Neighborhood Infrastructure/City Educational (NICE) block party.
- Continue to enhance Council Rules and processes.
- Appoint Council Liaison to support Youth Advisory Council.
- Conduct ten year update of the Vision 2037.