

CITY OF COOS BAY PARKS COMMISSION

Agenda Staff Report

MEETING DATE	AGENDA ITEM NUMBER
February 19, 2026	3.c

TO: Chair Lyons & Commissioners

FROM: Greg Hamblet, Operations Administrator

THROUGH: Jennifer Wirsing, Public Works Director

ISSUE: Preserving Oregon Grant Opportunity – Mingus Park Community Building Assessment

SUMMARY:

Discussion – Preserving Oregon Grant Opportunity for professional assessment of the Mingus Park Community Building

ACTION REQUESTED:

If it pleases the Commission, discuss and make a recommendation on whether to pursue the submission of a Preserving Oregon Grant application for a professional assessment of the Mingus Park Community Building and whether to allow use of Parks Fund dollars to satisfy all or a portion of the required match if external funding is not fully secured.

BACKGROUND:

The Mingus Park Community Building, commonly known as the Scout Cabin, is a historic WPA-era structure listed on the National Register of Historic Places in May of 2025. Initial stabilization work has been completed, addressing immediate safety concerns. As the project moves beyond emergency stabilization, future restoration efforts would benefit from a comprehensive professional assessment.

The Preserving Oregon Grant Program, administered by Oregon Heritage through the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, supports planning and assessment activities for historic resources listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Eligible activities include historic structure assessments, building condition evaluations, and other professional analyses intended to inform future rehabilitation projects. The program does not fund construction activities.

A professional assessment would document existing conditions, identify preservation priorities, and provide guidance for future restoration planning for the Historic WPA Community Building. This information would also strengthen the City's ability to pursue future construction-phase funding from state, federal, and private sources.

This funding opportunity was initially identified and shared with staff by former Parks Commissioner CoCo Sutton. The Preserving Oregon Grant offers funding up to \$20,000 at the maximum award level and requires a 1:1 (dollar-for-dollar) match, resulting in a total project cost of approximately \$40,000. Parks Fund dollars may be used to cover some or all of the required match if external funding is not fully secured. The grant requires submission of a Letter of Intent by April 7, 2026, with full applications due May 5, 2026. Award notifications are anticipated by the end of June 2026, with projects eligible to begin July 1, 2026, upon execution of the grant agreement and approval of the workplan. All project work and final reporting must be completed by April 30, 2027.

If directed to proceed, City staff intend to pursue additional funding to offset the City's match obligation, including:

- **Kinsman Foundation** – Planned request of \$5,000
 - Application deadline: August 1, 2026 for grants over \$5,000 (historic preservation category)
 - Decisions generally made in September; awards distributed in November
 - Small grants under \$5,000 may be reviewed on a rolling basis (typically 6–8 weeks)
- **Rotary / Coos Foundation Grants** – Planned request of \$5,000
 - Grant applications are considered September through May, which aligns with the anticipated timeline for securing match funding following state grant award notification

These combined efforts could reduce the amount of Parks Fund dollars required to meet the match.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:

If successful in obtaining the grant, match dollars will come from the Parks Fund, Capital Outlay, Mingus Park Community Building (Fund 37-306-530-3103).

ATTACHMENT(S):