

Council Business Meeting

March 2, 2021

Agenda Item	East Main Street Banner Request for the 75 th Anniversary of Soroptimist International of Ashland	
From	Adam Hanks	City Manager Pro Tem
Contact	adam.hanks@ashland.or.us ; (541) 552-2046	

SUMMARY

The Soroptimist International of Ashland is seeking approval to hang a banner over East Main Street for their 75th anniversary. As the Soroptimist's have not received grant funding from the City, the organizers have drafted a letter of requesting Council approval.

POLICIES, PLANS & GOALS SUPPORTED

N/A

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION

In 2016, the City Council approved a similar request for the 70th anniversary of Soroptimist International of Ashland.

BACKGROUND AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The City allows banners to be hung across East Main Street for events sponsored or endorsed by the City of Ashland only. The most common way endorsement is for an organization to receive grant funding from the City through the Economic, Cultural, Tourism, and Sustainability (ECTS) grant program. As the Soroptimist International of Ashland have not been a recipient of ECTS grants, they instead have gone through the process to receive approval from the City Council. The banner will solely announce the 75th anniversary. There is no public event or celebration that will be advertised on the banner.

FISCAL IMPACTS

Approval of the endorsement will not cost the City money. The banner permit fee of \$125 per week will still be paid by the applicant once the permit is allowed to be submitted.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends approving the endorsement of Soroptimist International of Ashland banner request.

ACTIONS, OPTIONS & POTENTIAL MOTIONS

1. I move to approve the endorsement of the Soroptimist International of Ashland banner request.
2. I move to deny the endorsement of the Soroptimist International of Ashland banner request.

REFERENCES & ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Banner Request from Soroptimist International of Ashland



SOROPTIMIST®

Investing in Dreams

February 15, 2021

Dear Mayor and Council,

On June 12, 2021 Soroptimist International of Ashland (SIA) will celebrate our 75th Anniversary, having been chartered by Soroptimist International of Klamath Falls on June 12, 1946. We are proud of our 75 years of service to the community of Ashland and to women and girls all over the world.

Soroptimist International of Ashland earns funds to support our mission through rental of pillows and blankets in the Allen Elizabethan Theater where we have operated the "Pillow Booth" since 1949. While the revenue from the booth has significantly decreased these past few years due to smoke from wildfires and COVID 19 closure, we continue our activities supporting women and girls. In a normal year, half of our proceeds are donated back to OSF to support the FAIR (fellowships, assistantships, internships, and residencies) Program. The remainder is spent on scholarships and awards for girls and women, women's and community health. For example, over the years SI Ashland has contributed nearly \$35,000 to the Ashland Community Hospital Foundation. SIA also supports a foot clinic at the Ashland Senior Center, as well as a wide variety of other community projects. Were it not for COVID school closures we would be in our 12th year of sponsoring the Soroptimist Strong Girls Strong Women program for girls at Helman Elementary School. This four-part program features a book give-away, a "lunch buddy" mentoring program, an after school STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) program and after school career education field trips. In the past we owned and operated a senior shuttle van serving the Ashland Senior Center, supported the Soroptimist Garden Way Park (donated by one of our members), and founded the first Trees of Joy program for holiday gifts for needy children. And there is much, much more!

Soroptimist International of Ashland

PO Box 544 Ashland, OR 97520

siasland@soroptimist.net  soroptimistrv.org/siasland



We would like to celebrate our 75th Anniversary by hanging a commemorative banner across East Main Street during the week of June 12, 2021. We were granted this opportunity in 2016 when we celebrated our 70th Anniversary and remain in possession of a banner that meets the required standards. It is our understanding we need the authorization of the Mayor and Council and perhaps a city commission as well for this to occur. We believe our 75 years of service make a compelling case that we are a part of the fabric of Ashland making this a most appropriate banner for all to see!

Very Sincerely Yours,

Pat Acklin, 75th Anniversary Co-chair

Soroptimist International of Ashland

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