

If I were Mayor

As mayor, my desire would be to bring the people in our city closer together as well as increase the responsibility we have to care for our land and each other. I would make safe spaces for talking and connecting, both indoor and outdoor. I would also have monthly events to increase excitement and joy throughout our neighborhoods and give us group projects to work on. Happy Valley is the place I have called home for ten years, and as a community, I think we need to reconnect with each other as well as the city we call home.

Having outdoor places for fun activities would draw community members together. I would prioritize the creation of an outdoor pool! Because everyone would be included there would be two waterslides: one for bigger daredevils and another one for the more cautious. Outside, there would be food carts which would include snow cones, sushi, and tacos. Food has a wonderful way of bringing people together. Swimming isn't the only thing we do outside, so spaciouly landscaped walking paths would zig-zag around the city. By putting these in, it would give community members the opportunity to safely walk around and see the interesting and unique aspects of Happy Valley, while also picking up garbage along the way. Outdoor activity areas are natural ways to encourage long-lasting relationships that are important for our community.

But that's not all- we will need indoor fun too! If I were mayor, I would prudently erect an indoor recreation center. Inside there would be a 250 ft climbing wall. If you were brave enough to make it to the top, you could grab a certificate for free ice cream off the ledge. Cleverly, I would put a grand piano in the lobby which everyone could play. As a piano player myself, I love the way music puts everyone into a good mood. There would be space for an Oregon State Beaver fan club since there should be a place to cheer them on. It would have incredible access to watch live games on a big screen.

As mayor, I would also recognize the city's need for a Cat Café because who doesn't want a cafe full of cats? There would be tall cat trees spiraling around the café and all house cats would also be welcome. A great first job for Happy Valley teens would be refereeing at the Cat Café. Oregon weather can be dreary, so indoor fun is important, and creating more community spaces would help grow our love for each other and our city.

Events are another way to help communities connect. I would host an exciting and different one each month. January would feature a dog show, February- a pie eating contest, March- an art gallery, April- a Basketball Tournament, May- a square dance, June-a Garden Celebration, July- a soap box derby, August- a classic car parade, September- a kickball tournament, October- a harvest party, November- a Turkey Trot, and December- a Christmas Market. While each event would focus on fun, they would also double as a food and clothes drive. During a time when everyone has felt isolated and divided for so long, I would foster connection within our community through activities both indoor and outdoor, while also inviting everyone to give back.