

What is An Environmentalist ?  
By: Kim Bosse'

Those long hot August nights are upon us and I certainly haven't been feeling passionate enough about anything to do with recycling or conservation to justify sitting indoors hacking away at the computer. I'd much rather direct my passions towards other activities like playing in the sun and enjoying long warm walks on the beach at twilight.

So as I was wandering along the beach today vainly trying to come up with an environmental issue exciting enough to write a column on, I began to think about what environmentalism means. The concept that environmentalists are just "wannabe" trend followers is not only erroneous but insulting to all the people who dedicate themselves to all the many environmental causes. Just what is an environmentalist anyway? And how can being concerned about the habitat we live in be a trendy issue? Haven't human beings been concerned about their surroundings since the beginning of their introduction to the planet? Why are conservationists lionized as youthful left wing anti-establishment flakes? Some of the staunchest and most hard working environmentalists I have worked with have been business owners and managers that are 30 years older than me and have been lifelong card carrying Republicans. And isn't the root word for conservatives, conserve? Why should the generation we are born in or our political affiliations define our relationship to the earth? Rather, those differences should be brought together to help create solutions to existing problems, planning for the long term health of the earth, and to help foster open and honest communications about all the complex issues surrounding environmentalism. For every question I ask myself 10 more crop up.

To make matters even more confusing, for every answer I think I have, I can think of a practice I participate in that contradicts the answer. Does this make me a hypocrite? Does it make me a realist? Or does it make me an environmentalist in the true sense of the word? A person doing the best they can do in a society that does nothing to foster behavior changes and certainly doesn't reward businesses that try to be "earth friendly." I can not tell you if I would truthfully rather see the coastal hills owned by commercial enterprises that log and reseed their property for new wood harvests or private owners who log it and build houses. I know that I'd like to see less deforestation but I also know that I am not willing to give up using all paper and wood products. So what is adequate land use management? And I'll be honest, I buy products because they are convenient, even though they are over packaged. I've also been known to forget my coffee cup and use a disposable one.

I think the reason the whole environmental movement is so non definable is that it is fragmented. The term environmentalist has a different meaning for each of us but is still labeled as a liberal attitude. The semantics of the different sides often seem to preclude any progress, when in fact both sides have very similar goals. Those meanings can range from purist who do not want to see any changes or development to outdoor sportsman to biologists. The people and groups involved in environmental issues are as diverse and broad ranging as the Fish & Wildlife Assoc., RNA, Earth First and the Audobon Society.

If you can get past all the rhetoric it is critical for all of us to understand and care about where we live. I believe that we all do have an innate reverence for our surroundings and want to protect and preserve it, some of us just do not know how to articulate those thoughts or how to put actions into them.

I have had opportunities in life to see the greatness and wonder of the world as well as the devastation that man has wrecked upon it. Places as magical as the Serengeti Plains in East Africa or as sweepingly beautiful as the Grand Canyon and as intense as the Hoh Rain Forest. I have also been shocked by man's imprint in Sudbury Ontario, Watts, and Aushiwitz.

So call me naive, but I believe that if we aren't all willing to sit down and compromise for the long term good of all the parties then none of us can say we are truly respectful of our environment. That includes humans, animals, nature and industry. It would seem to me that if we all would put aside our own agendas, egos, petty political differences and desire for control and listen to each other, we could learn to communicate honestly and come up with some realistic and holistic practices. It always amazes me what can be accomplished people actually listen to each other.

Enough of this over analyzing unanswerable questions, I think I'll go for a walk. Then I can enjoy and respect the environment that I live in and remember why I consider myself a person who is committed to the "environmental movement". I suggest you do the same. After all August only seems to last for a blink of the eye around here.

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# Municipal Memo

ISSUE 49 • JULY 1995

## MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

### CITY COUNCIL JULY 11, 1995

- +Held a public hearing on Sandra Larson's application for a Comprehensive Plan and Zoning map amendment to include within the urban growth boundary a 3.4 acre parcel of land located east of Highway 101 and south of Sunset Blvd. The Larson's home is located on this parcel of land and the applicant wishes to next apply for annexation into the city limits. The Council tentatively approved the request, pending final findings and an ordinance to be prepared for the next Council meeting. (A)
- +Held a public hearing regarding proposed storm drainage improvements at Fernwood and Pacific Streets. Based on objections received from 2/3 of the affected property owners, Council voted to postpone consideration of the project for six months. (B)
- +Considered again a proposal by the city to amend the Zoning Ordinance to make provisions and set standards for Assisted Living Facilities which are buildings designed for occupancy by the frail elderly living independently of each other and where certain personal care services are provided. After discussion, Council voted to not adopt the proposal.

+Adopted two ordinances amending the city's short term rental ordinances. Among the changes made by the ordinances are:

1. Continue the existing short term rentals for three additional years beyond the original ordinance's February 1997 termination date;
2. Revise the qualifications of Local Representatives;
3. Determine occupancy limits in conjunction with availability of adequate off-street parking and the number of sleeping areas provided;
4. Make provision for random financial audits and building safety inspections.

+Council agreed that the short term rental ordinances should be reviewed again in 1998 unless there is cause to review sooner.

+Appointed David Robinson as alternate city representative to Clatsop Tillamook Intergovernmental Council (CTIC).

+Adopted recommendations made by the Design Review Board for grandfathering the businesses with existing tourist-oriented directional signs that are present at Sunset Blvd and Hemlock Street and Warren Way and Hemlock. The Design Review Board also recommended that the present signs be replaced with wooden signs. (C)

+Instructed staff to advertise for openings on the Parks and Community Services Committee, the Planning Commission and Design Review Board.

+Adopted recommendations of the Parks and Community Services Committee regarding community grants. Funds in the first of two rounds of allocations for this year were granted to:

Cannon Beach Chorus	\$ 900
Cannon Beach Historical Society	\$ 250
Clatsop County Women's Resource Center	\$1000
Clatsop County Mental Health Center	\$1000
Seaside Youth Center	\$1000
Clatsop Community Action	\$1000
Pioneer House	\$ 500
CTIC (Senior Meal Program)	\$1000
School District #10	\$ 600

+Set a worksession date for July 25 at 6:00 pm to begin with a tour of the new water treatment facility. Council will then reconvene at City hall at approximately 7:00 pm to discuss several items.

## AUGUST 1995 PUBLIC MEETINGS

- 1 CITY COUNCIL, 7 P.M.
- 10 PUBLIC WORKS CMTE., 4:30 P.M.
- 16 ENERGY CMTE., 8:30 A.M.
- 17 PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES, 9 A.M.
- 17 DESIGN REVIEW, 6:30 P.M.
- 24 PLANNING COMMISSION, 7 P.M.

## PLANNING COMMISSION JUNE 22

+Held a public hearing and voted to deny the Klein setback reduction request to permit a five foot rear yard setback in conjunction with the construction of a single family dwelling at 163 Hills Lane. The applicant requested the rear yard reduction from 15 feet to 5 feet to avoid encroachment of the house into a wetlands area but the Planning Commission found that granting the reduction would not provide for a reasonable amount of privacy from the existing home on a neighboring lot. (D)

+Held a public hearing and denied the Copeoff-street parking variance request. Gene Cope requested the variance to permit two fewer off-street parking spaces than required in association with the proposed construction of a commercial building at 224 N. Hemlock Street. (E)

+Held a public hearing and granted a conditional use request by Ruth and Frank Falco to permit an accessory dwelling in conjunction with an existing residence at 3580 S. Hemlock in an R1 zone. (F)

+Held a public hearing on a proposed amendment to establish a process for adding newly discovered streams to the stream corridor protection provisions of the Zoning Ordinance. The Planning Commission voted to recommend approval of the amendment to City Council.

+Continued consideration of SUB 95-01, Shorewood Associates application for tentative plan approval for a 19 lot subdivision, including 17 lots for the construction of duplexes. The property consists of a 3.53 acre parcel of land bordered by Spruce Street on the west, Highway 101 on the east and Gower Street on the north and is zoned R2. The Planning Commission voted tentatively to deny the subdivision request. At a special meeting on June 29, Commissioners adopted orders and findings denying the request. The applicants have filed an appeal of the Planning Commission decision which will be heard at City Council's August 1 meeting. (G)

## FRANKIE KEHL MEMORIAL DEDICATION SET FOR JULY 28

The City of Cannon Beach will dedicate a memorial in honor of Frankie Kehl who served for many years on the Parks & Community Services Committee. The memorial will consist of a slice from a sitka spruce tree estimated to be 370 years old.

The memorial will be dedicated in Les Shirley Park located off Fifth Street on the north side of Elk Creek. The dedication will be on Friday, July 28 at 1 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

## MEETING HIGHLIGHTS DESIGN REVIEW JULY 20

Held a public hearing on American Legion Post 168 application for addition to the north side of the existing building located at 1216 South Hemlock to provide for a walk-in cooler and recycling area and a covered entry on the west side of the building. (H)

## HAYSTACK ROCK AWARENESS PROGRAM CONTINUES

The Haystack Rock Awareness Program, a City and community sponsored interpretative program which provides guides, marine life displays and viewing scopes for the birds of Haystack Rock, continues to operate throughout the summer in the morning during periods of low tides. Schedules of the times of the program at the Rock are available at City Hall. The days scheduled for July/August are as follows:

Friday, July 28 7:00-10:00 a.m.  
Saturday, July 29 7:30-10:30 a.m.  
Sunday, July 30 8:00-11:00 a.m.  
Monday, July 31 8:00-11:00 a.m.

Thursday, August 10 7:00-10:00 a.m.  
Friday, August 11 7:00-10:30 a.m.  
Saturday, August 12 7:30-10:30 a.m.  
Sunday, August 13 8:00-11:00 a.m.  
Monday, August 14 8:30-11:30 a.m.  
Saturday, August 26 7:00-10:00 a.m.  
Sunday, August 27 7:00-10:00 a.m.  
Monday, August 28 7:30-10:30 a.m.

## RECYCLE SCHEDULE AUGUST 1995

**CURBSIDE**  
MON. Collection 14th & 28th  
TUES. Collection 8th & 22nd  
WED. Collection 9th & 23rd  
FRI. Collection 11th & 25th

**RECYCLE SATURDAY**  
9 a.m.-1 p.m. 5th & 19th



Kirk Anderson, Mayor  
City Councilors:  
Laurel Hood  
Cleve Rooper  
Frank Little  
Karolyn Adamson  
John Williams, City Manager

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