

Cannon Beach council tackles paving ideas

By NANCY MCCARTHY
The Daily Astorian

CANNON BEACH — If neighbors on a local gravel road want their street paved, their proposal will be discussed in a public hearing where everyone can discuss it and the Cannon Beach City Council will make a final decision.

That provision is contained in revised street standards guidelines considered by the council at its work session Tuesday night.

While the guidelines say that existing “unpaved” roads are to remain gravel, the City Council will have the right to determine when conditions, such as a slope or other problems, require that a road be paved. Neighborhoods, however, can request that their streets be paved.

Before a neighborhood’s graveled street can be paved, property owners must submit a request to the city’s Public Works director showing that at least two-thirds of the owners support the project and are willing to pay for it. The city will contribute 20 percent of the asphalt paving, and property owners

will pay 80 percent. Property owners could opt out of paying, but the cost would have to be picked up by the other property owners. Even one property owner could agree to pay for the entire project, said Public Works Director Dan Grassick.

Property owners who fail to pay their share within 30 days after the project is completed will have a lien filed against their property, according to the street standards guidelines.

A neighborhood meeting to discuss the project, including street design and cost, would be conducted. Following the neighborhood meeting, a public hearing before the City Council would occur.

However, the councilors debated the need for a public hearing.

“I don’t like the idea that a neighborhood can come up with an agreement and in a public hearing people (outside the neighborhood) can

say they don’t want it paved,” said Councilor Mike Benefield, who added that those who don’t live in the neighborhood shouldn’t have that much control.

But Mayor Sam Steidel noted that second-homeowners who might live in larger cities where all the streets are paved and who think their neighborhoods should also be paved might not understand that it is within Cannon Beach’s character to have gravel roads.

“I want to make sure the public has the right to say that they don’t want the streets to be paved,” Steidel said.

Councilor George Vetter also expressed concern that the public — and the City Council — might have too much say over what a local neighborhood has agreed it wants and is willing to pay for.

“I fear we’re making an adversarial situation for ourselves,” Vetter said.

“It makes me a little uncomfortable telling them they can get their street paved, but maybe not,” he added.

But Councilor Wendy Higgins noted that “people want to be heard.”

“Yeah, sometimes it gets emotional, but that’s our job,” she said.

City Manager Brant Kucera agreed. “If you’re asking people to pay 20 percent of the cost, they have a right to be heard,” he said.

But, he added, “People across town aren’t going to be affected. I would hope that the government body takes into account that 98 percent of the neighborhood wants it.”

Councilor Melissa Cadwallader noted that, if the City Council is required to make the final decision, then “We have to hear all sides.”

Cadwallader also asked Grassick whether the vegetation in the neighborhood would be taken into account when the street design is drawn. Grassick said the paving would generally follow the existing right of way. Local roads that wind around trees now will remain that way, even if they are paved, he said.

‘I fear we’re making an adversarial situation for ourselves.’

— George Vetter
Cannon Beach city councilor

Voters boost coffers at college

Patriot Hall Redevelopment to start in June

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

Clatsop Community College has about \$7.4 million more than budgeted in its plant fund to use for construction, renovation and acquisition of capital assets.

The boost is part of the \$8.2 million local match for the Patriot Hall Redevelopment the college secured in the November election.

“In my 3 1/2 years here, that is the most resources we’ve had over expenses,” said JoAnn Zahn, vice president of finance and operations, about the \$10 million in excess revenues over expenditures. She gave her financial report to the college’s governing board Tuesday. When Zahn arrived in 2011, she was faced with cutting about \$1 million from the budget.

More than 58 percent of county voters approved of matching an \$7.99 million state appropriation to CCC with up to \$8.2 million in local general obligation bonds. The \$16 million will fund the replacement of the seismically unstable Patriot Hall with a newly redeveloped student health and wellness center at CCC, still named Patriot Hall.



Rendering courtesy of SRG Partnership Inc./Photo Courtesy of David Homer
The Patriot Hall Redevelopment will keep some of the exterior elements of the building while creating a new academic building inside.

In February, Canadian firm BMO Capital Markets, a subsidiary of the Canadian Bank of Montreal, produced the winning bid and bought the bonds, which Zahn said are in the bank and accruing interest.

Maturing in no more than 21 years, they cost about 10 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value for homeowners. Wedbush Securities, the college’s financial adviser on

the bonds, estimated that the measure would cost \$1.72 per month for the owner of a \$200,000 piece of property.

Save the date

The college breaks ground on the Patriot Hall Redevelopment at 1 p.m. June 13. It’s expected to take 18 months to redevelop the academic hall, which will include a full gym, weight center, indoor elevated running track and other classroom space. It is

set to open by fall term 2016.

In January, the college selected P&C Construction as the general contractor and construction manager for the Patriot Hall Redevelopment. SRG Partnership Inc. serves as the architectural firm designing the building.

P&C constructed Columbia Hall and renovated Towler Hall for the college’s Jerome Campus Redevelopment Project — on time and under budget. It also built Health and Wellness Pavilion for Columbia Memorial Hospital, CMH Field for the Astoria School District and renovated Astoria City Hall and the city’s public safety building.

With redeveloped Patriot Hall, the college hopes to add paramedic and exercise physiology degree programs, along with a substance abuse counselor certificate, said President Lawrence Galizio.

For updates on the Patriot Hall Redevelopment, visit <http://bit.ly/1scZa1l>

In the most recent post, from March 4, Astoria High School Senior Matthew Cox explores the history of Patriot Hall’s plaque, commemorating veterans from Clatsop County. The plaque, unveiled when Patriot Hall was dedicated on the third-annual Armistice Day Nov. 11, 1921, has been removed for cleaning, restoration and safe-keeping, but will adorn the redeveloped building.

Wray graduating from parole class

By The Daily Astorian

David G. Wray, of the Clatsop County Sheriff’s Office, is one of 22 officers to graduate in the Oregon Public Safety Academy’s 69th Parole and Probation Class.

The graduation ceremony will be held at 11 a.m. Friday at the Oregon Public Safety Academy in Salem. All family and friends of students, supervisors, department heads and city and county officials are welcome to attend.

The five-week class for parole and probation officers around the state included topics such as roles and responsibilities, best practices, mental health crisis intervention, report writing, interview techniques, ethics, conflict resolution, professional boundaries, defensive tactics and use of force.

The class was developed by the Oregon Association of Community Correction Directors and approved by the Board on Public Safety Standards and Training.

Parole and probation officers who will carry firearms at their agencies will return to the Public Safety Academy for an additional week of training.

Upon graduation, the students will return to their agencies to continue their training for a number of months under the guidance of a field training officer, according to the academy.

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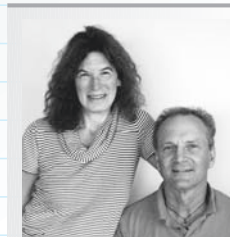
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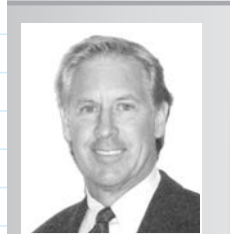
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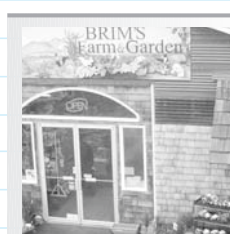
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Bryan Hagen
Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner

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