

Cannon Beach rejects moratorium on dune grading

By R.J. MARX
The Daily Astorian

CANNON BEACH — The city of Cannon Beach declined to adopt a moratorium on dune grading at its meeting Tuesday night. The request for a moratorium had come from the Oregon Coast Alliance in an April 13 letter. The letter had requested the city initiate an update of the sand management plan and stop issuing sand grading permits until such an update is completed.

Rather than accept the moratorium, members of the council agreed to approach the matter in their comprehensive plan, which was adopted in 1997 and is being revised.

The city will look for a consultant to start working on a new sand management plan in the next six weeks, according to City Planner Mark Barnes.

The issue came in the wake of a denial of a dune-grading project at Breakers Point, which was subject to a Land Use Board of Appeals action, although that appeal was dropped this week, according to Barnes.

In February, the city Planning Commission turned down a request by Breakers Point homeowners to remove sand in front of the condominium project. The homeowners association had requested a conditional use permit to allow for dune grading west and south

of the condos. In recent years, Breakers Point dunes — held in place with European dune grass that traps windblown sand — have grown higher than 40 feet, blocking oceanfront views and pushing sand onto properties.

The purpose of the project — which would have involved shifting almost 74,000 cubic yards of sand onto the beach during the next couple of years — was to restore the residents' views and prevent further sand inundation. At least 25 feet of sand needs to be removed in some areas, according to Tom Horning, a geologist working with the homeowners association, at the February Planning Com-

mission meeting.

In response to this project, the council considered the plan for a moratorium on all sand management permits, which was supported by the Oregon Coast Alliance and joined by 1000 Friends of Oregon, Surfrider Foundation and Friends of the Dunes, based in Cannon Beach.

At Tuesday night's meeting, the council adopted the advice of the city's land use attorney, Bill Kabeiseman, who said in a staff report he believed a moratorium could interfere with some sand management permits that are generally approved without controversy.

"There are some types of

grading that are prudent administratively," said Barnes. "It's a different nature. There are small projects, people's porches, that go on regularly. If you're going to adopt a blanket moratorium that covers those projects too — you want a lot of specificity on what is covered in the moratorium."

In addition, the town has no applications for the fall and "nothing is coming up in spring," according to Barnes.

Council members said the current sand management plan was working and could continue to do so while the city updates the comprehensive plan.

Barnes said if a budget was adopted for a dune-grading

plan, he would like to put a consultant under contract late in the winter and have a plan delivered in February and March.

"I don't like the idea of a moratorium," Mayor Sam Steidel said.

Councilor Wendy Higgins said since the comprehensive plan was being revised and would be delivered early next year, it didn't make sense to adopt the moratorium for "something that's only going to save us a few months. I'm looking at it from a financial perspective. Time is money."

"You still have the same tools," City Manager Brant Kucera said. "It seems to me it's pretty sound."

Sosa and Kennedy are All-Oregon Academics

Daniel Kennedy and José Sosa have been selected as Clatsop Community College's 2014-15 Student Scholars and its representatives on the Oregon Community College Association's All-Oregon Academic Team.

On Thursday, Kennedy and Sosa traveled to Salem with CCC President Lawrence Galizio to be honored in Salem along with students from each of Oregon's 17 community colleges. Student scholars attended a recognition luncheon, followed by a presentation in the Oregon State Capitol and group photo with Gov. Kate Brown in the Ceremonial Office.

Daniel Kennedy is a 41-year-old student from Gearhart. He maintains a 3.57 GPA and volunteers as a tutor in the English as a Second Language (ESL), biology and psychology programs at CCC. Kennedy plans to transfer to the University of Oregon.

"I will major in biology, in preparation for a degree in neuroscience," Kennedy said. "I might end up being a neuroscience lab technician but am open to other opportunities that may become available to me as I continue to study biology."

José Sosa, 19, came to



Daniel Kennedy, left, and José Sosa, right, were named as Clatsop Community College's 2014-15 representatives on the All-Oregon Academic Team. Accompanied by CCC President Lawrence Galizio, were honored in the Oregon State Capitol along with students from each of Oregon's 17 community colleges.

Clatsop County from Patzcuaro Michoacán, Mexico. He is the recipient of a CCC Foundation Scholarship, the Sue Richardson Memorial Scholarship, CCC Latino Club Scholarship and Puerta de Oportunidades award.

Sosa is a math major with a 3.94 GPA and active as a

Latino Club member, Cannon Beach Bible Church volunteer, Spanish translator and math tutor. He plans to attend Western Oregon University in the fall and will major in math education. In describing his goals, Sosa said, "I want to reach out to others who have had a tough

life and show them that there's a way out."

The annual All-Oregon Academic Team event celebrates outstanding students from Oregon's community colleges. The Oregon Community College Association partners with Phi Theta Kappa to ensure students have

the opportunity to be eligible for more than \$350,000 in Coca-Cola Foundation and USA Today scholarships. Additionally, all Oregon four-year institutions offer a minimum of \$1,000 in transfer scholarships to each All-Oregon Academic Team Member.

Buy tickets for the 12th annual Soup Bowl fundraiser

The Harbor has announced that the 12th annual fundraiser Soup Bowl event is being held at 5:30 p.m. May 16 at the Masonic Temple, 1572 Franklin Ave. This year's keynote speaker is Danielle Tudor. She is a named survivor of the Portland serial jogger

rapist, and is doing legislative work in Salem. Also in attendance will be longtime supporter of The Harbor, Sen. Betsy Johnson.

As in years past, the event is a collaborative partnership with The Harbor staff and Clatsop Community College's Art

Department. Richard Rowland and his band of potters have diligently crafted one-of-a-kind bowls, fired in Astoria's Anagama kiln. This year's bowls were fired using wood from the demolition of The Harbor's new building project.

Soups are being donated

by local restaurants including Silver Salmon, Astoria Coffee House and Bistro, Baked Alaska and Fulio's with bread provided by the Blue Scorch Bakery Café. A hosted bar and silent auction are included in the event.

Tickets can be purchased

at Déjà vu Thrift store, 1389 Duane St., for \$50, or call 503-325-3426 to reserve a seat. All proceeds from this event support survivors of stalking, domestic and sexual violence.

Seabirds subject of talk

A Columbia River Maritime Museum Science on Tap event, which takes place Thursday at Fort George Brewery in the Lovell Building, features "Seabirds of the Oregon Coast: Who is out there, what are they doing, and why should we care," with Rob Suryan. The doors open at 6 p.m., and the presentation begins at 7 p.m.

Suryan will describe the diversity of seabirds that occur off our coast, techniques that scientists use to study these birds, and what role they play in marine ecosystems. He will also discuss the ecology, life history variability and conservation of these birds.

An associate professor — senior research in the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife at Oregon State University's Hatfield Marine Science Center, he has studied the effects of environmental change on the reproductive biology, foraging ecology, and population dynamics of marine birds for over 20 years. He applies results from many of these studies to address seabird-fishery interactions, environmental impacts of marine renewable energy development and marine spatial planning.

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