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THE DAILY ASTORIAN

143rd YEAR, No. 14

MONDAY, JULY 20, 2015

ONE DOLLAR



City of Portland

Parklets in Portland can help make streets feel more vital and vibrant and draw more business activity.

Parklets, a seat along the street Astoria might allow 2 tiny parks during a two-year pilot

By DERRICK DePLEDGE
The Daily Astorian

A trendy slice of urban street design could be coming to Astoria.

Cities such as Portland, Seattle and San Francisco have embraced parklets, tiny curbside sanctuaries where people can eat, drink or relax. The parklets are often partnerships with coffeehouses, restaurants or retail shops that want to give customers comfortable places to linger outside.

Dulcye Taylor, the owner of Old Town Framing Co. and the president of the Astoria Downtown Historic District Association, pitched the idea to have parklets in Astoria after seeing one in Portland.

Taylor said potential spots could be old or underused loading zones downtown. "Why not take those and make some kind of street public space — to just make it cooler?" she said.

Pilot project

The City Council Monday night will consider a pilot program that would allow two parklets over the next two years. The parklets would essentially be sidewalk extensions or decks on the street near businesses — about the size of a parking space — with landscaping and seating.

The parklets would be on the interior of side streets, like 11th Street, not corners or on thoroughfares such as Marine Drive or Commercial, Duane or Exchange streets.

The mini-parks would have to be open to the public all day.

Property owners who want to experiment with a parklet would have to seek feedback from near-



Eric Risberg/AP Photo

In this 2010 photo, Josie Mattson of San Francisco, left, enjoys the sunshine while sitting at the Divisadero Parklet in San Francisco.

by businesses and come before the City Council for approval.

"Frankly, we as a city have some bigger fish to fry — supporting job creation plus housing Astorians can afford — but I respect the downtown association and its desire to pilot this program," City Councilor Zetty Nemlowill, the marketing director for the Astoria Co-op Grocery and former operator of Coffee Girl, said in a text.

Creative designs

In Portland, the city's Street Seats program grew out of a pilot project in 2012 and now has 15 installations. Most of the parklets are

private and reserved for customers of partnering businesses, but three are public, including one designed by Portland State University architecture students that opened on Fourth Avenue near downtown in June.

To spark creativity, the city has invited architects and designers to compete to design parklets.

"One of the goals of the program is to make streets feel more vital, more vibrant, to draw more business activity to them," said Gabriel Graff, the active transportation operations and safety manager at the Portland Bureau of Transportation. "With that, we wanted to sort of raise the bar and make the

platforms themselves look more interesting and engaging."

Loss of parking

Like in other cities, the parklets in Portland have mostly been greeted as cool urban additions but also criticized by some for soaking up parking spaces. The city has an agreement with the Downtown Retail Council not to allow parklets in the downtown core.

Permits for the parklets must be renewed each year, and the city requires documentation of continued neighborhood support, a check against abuses.

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Ferries a colorful slice of Astoria's history

Tribute to the Columbia River features past, present, future

By MCKINLEY SMITH
The Daily Astorian

Joe Leahy can remember standing in the outfield and looking out over the Columbia River at the ships. As a child growing up in Astoria, that was about the extent of his maritime involvement. While his friends got jobs on the river, he worked other jobs, like retail.

It was only later that Leahy sought a maritime connection with his hometown. He did historical research delving into the past of the Astoria ferry business.

That past is colored by engineering mistakes, military commandeering and rivalries, all of it carried out on the backdrop of one of the mightiest rivers in the world.

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River pilot plies the dangerous Columbia

From Astoria to Portland and back, pilots are vital for safety

By MCKINLEY SMITH
The Daily Astorian

Attendees of Clatsop Community College's "A Tribute to the Columbia River" got a snapshot of the life of a Columbia River pilot.

Saturday morning, Mark Paulson spoke about what it is like to be a river pilot on the Columbia.

"I don't work for the ship owner. I don't work for anybody, I work for you," Paulson told the audience during his presentation. "My only obligation is safety."

As a river pilot, Paulson boards ships traveling up and down the Columbia from Astoria to Portland,

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Interns bring culture to local national park

Outreach brings in children of migrant workers



Two interns at Lewis and Clark National Historical Park are spearheading various educational and cultural programs that have never been done before at the park.

Nancy Fernandez and Salvador Ornelas, both Hispanic and bilingual, have worked on several community outreach projects, including recruiting children of migrant workers to summer camps and leading bilingual kayak tours and hikes.

Fernandez is an intern through the Student Conservation Association, which

places 100 interns each year in national parks across the country.

Ornelas is a Latino heritage intern through the Environment for the Americas, which places 20 interns in national parks.

Scott Tucker, Lewis and Clark National Historical Park superintendent, said he had to submit two applications to the National Park Service offices sponsoring the two internships. Both applications focused on Hispanic outreach,

bilingual program creation and health and wellness.

With more than 400 national parks in the United States, Tucker said, it was a competitive process to secure the two interns.

"So far this summer, I am beyond happy," Tucker said. "The experience, creativity and passion these two interns have brought to the NPS family will be felt for years here in the park and the community."

Representation of diversity

Fernandez has been busy translating fliers and other information for the Spanish-speaking community in

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Salvador Ornelas and Nancy Fernandez are interns at Lewis and Clark National Historical Park.

Kyle Spurr
The Daily Astorian

