

Race: Seaside has been its final destination since 1989

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“We love Seaside and we’d love to be back, but it would be smart of us to always have a backup plan for Seaside and every other location on our race course,”

Floyd was responding to complaints from business owners who presented a letter to the City Council at a workshop Monday seeking at least a date change if not an outright race ban.

While the last leg was Pacific City when Hood to Coast was launched in 1982, Seaside has been the final destination since 1989.

“Although the Seaside Chamber of Commerce and many of the area’s lodging facilities benefit financially, many of us year-round business owners feel that the overall impact of hosting this massive event during the busy summer tourist season is negative,” wrote the 74 business owners in a letter delivered to the council.

During the workshop, moderated by City Councilor Randy Frank, audience members complained about rude behavior by runners, “arrogant” organizers and vendors who tapped into private power supplies. With the beach closed off at this year’s race because of high winds and stormy weather, runners filled the streets and blocked store entrances, business owners said.

“I don’t think the word ‘disastrous’ is too strong a term,” City Councilor Tita Montero said of this year’s event.

Frank said the value of Hood to Coast is “overstated.”

“What I don’t like is the quality of life for first-time visitors, or those who just happen to book a room,” he said.

‘Good neighbors’

“We’re never really going to get involved in the personal attacks,” Floyd said Thursday. “Councilor Frank has done a good job rallying troops against us. We’re just going to do everything we can to be good neighbors and good citizens in Seaside.”

Is moving the date of the race from late August an option?

“This is a 200-mile course, so everything we do impacts 200 miles,” Floyd said. “Changing the date changes it for multiple jurisdictions, cities and counties. It’s not just tradition, it’s right before everybody goes back to school. It’s really easy for us to get volunteers and participants.”

“I’m really proud that this race brings in entrants from 50 states and 35 countries,” he added. “It’s a good time for travel for those from those 50 states and 35 countries, and allows us to showcase the gems and beauty of Oregon. Seaside is one of them. The tourism and economic impact is significant.”

Some business owners said Hood to Coast organizers were not paying a fair share of race profits to the city.

“We lost a lot of money this year,” Floyd



Crowds thronged Broadway after runners and spectators endured a blustery day at the end of the Hood to Coast and Portland to Coast relays this year.



The scene on the beach after high winds dismantled the Hood to Coast stage and tents in August.

said. “This is 1 mile in a 200-mile course. We’re giving \$25,000 to the Seaside Cham-

ber of Commerce, \$25,000 to Seaside Providence Hospital, and \$17,000 to Seaside

Parks and Recreation.”

He said new negotiations for city services were “always a possibility.”

During Monday’s meeting, Mayor Don Larson had asked if a Hood to Coast representative was present.

While no one responded, Floyd said Hood to Coast did have a representative at the meeting taking notes.

The agenda, released Thursday, shows no discussion of Hood to Coast, although a public comment period is scheduled.

Unique weather

“Every year, every event we do, there are going to be people who oppose us holding the event,” Floyd said. “Obviously this year was a unique year weather-wise. I’d love to work through the chamber and have a communication plan in place for a normal year, and for a year when we have weather issues.”

“I would like to do what’s right for Seaside, and what’s right for our event,” Floyd added. “If that means we have to take time and think about it, then we will. I think we’ll be back on the Oregon Coast for another year.”

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