



Submitted Photo

Sand dunes near Breakers Point in Cannon Beach are said to block homeowners' views and create an environmental hazard.

Homeowners say they have the right to grade dunes

City wants restrictions until plan completed

By **DANI PALMER**
EO Media Group

CANNON BEACH — Should dune grading wait until Cannon Beach's sand management plan is complete? The Planning Commission thinks so. Despite homeowner opposition, commission members want an amendment to the city's zoning code which would prohibit foredune grading until that plan is completed.

A sand management plan is expected to be delivered in 18 to 24 months. The Cannon Beach City Council will hold a public hearing on the amendment Tuesday.

"Why should this amendment be allowed?" Breakers Point homeowner Frank Patrick asked planning commissioners last week. "Or, more importantly, why is it necessary?"

Homeowners want grading options

Foredune grading applies to two sites, Breakers Point and the presidential streets, and is done to maintain views or prevent inundation.

While Breakers Point homeowners were granted permission to grade 13,700-cubic-yards of sand in August, a condition of the permit was a delay of further grading until the sand management plan is developed and the revegetation plan is evaluated for success.

In September, the council asked the commission to amend the current ordinance to reflect that condition.

At the Planning Com-

mission meeting last week, Patrick said the commission and the City Council are responding to the interests only of "a few very vocal people who are saying we have to preserve the dunes" and not Cannon Beach homeowners.

"The sand management plan is a sand management plan, not a dune preservation plan," he added.

Commissioner Lisa Kerr said the city's sand management study may conclude that leaving the dunes alone is best, or that grading is the right choice.

"We just don't know what the end result will be," she added.

Breakers Point homeowner Ed Stone said it does not seem legal to prohibit dune grading under state land use guidelines. Patrick also said the amendment constitutes a moratorium that violates state law. "You folks are trying to change the rules of the game," Stone said, adding he wants city officials to abide by the law.

"Obviously if we don't agree with you, that doesn't mean that we're not following the rules," Kerr said. "It means that we don't agree with you on how that gets implemented, what the rules

are and what that means."

Patrick said sand could pile up another 15 feet during the grading prohibition period — "a real problem" when it comes to safety and maintaining beach access. Breakers Point Homeowners Association Property Manager Bruce Francis added the city asked them to put in the dune grass that is trapping sand and exacerbating the problem. There are dunes nearly 50 feet high near Breakers Point now as a result of meeting the city's original guidelines.

"We're all happy with what the city gave us," he noted, referring to an August decision to grant limited grading at Breakers Point. "We now have permission to move to the next phase."

Rush to prohibition?

Francis said he didn't understand why the commission felt the need to amend the ordinance. To acquire a permit for dune grading would take about 18 to 24 months, the time it may take to finish the sand management plan.

If an amendment is to be considered, the commission needs to "at least put a time

limit on" the dune grading prohibition, Francis said.

Currently there is no sunset date for delivery of the sand management plan, he added.

Kerr said a deadline could create further conflict if the sand management plan process runs longer than a proposed sunset date.

Commissioner Joseph Bern, Kerr, Chairman Bob Lundy and Charles Bennett voted to approve the amendment recommendation. Ryan Dewey was the lone dissenting vote.

If approved by the City Council next week, the amendment will not impact the Breakers Point 13,700-cubic-yard dune grading approval or any remedial projects, such as removing sand so stormwater can run into a drain.

Child injured after being struck by vehicle

The Daily Astorian

ria, was uninjured.

An 11-year-old boy sustained minor injuries after being struck by a vehicle Wednesday morning in the crosswalk at Seventh Street and Klaskanine Avenue.

Astoria Police and Fire Departments and Medix Ambulance responded to the scene at about 7:25 a.m.

The boy, dressed in dark clothing, was transported to Columbia Memorial Hospital for treatment.

The vehicle's driver, Eileen Lindberg, 51, Asto-

ria, was cited for failing to stop and remain stopped for a pedestrian in a crosswalk, with a school zone fine enhancement.

Astoria Police said driver awareness, especially near crosswalks and in school zones, is important to prevent such crashes.

In addition, police said, pedestrians can make themselves more visible by wearing bright and reflective clothing, using a light in dark or inclement weather and making eye contact with the vehicle operator and drawing attention to themselves.

Historical Society seeks bridge stories

The Clatsop County Historical Society is hosting an open house for community members to come and share their personal connection to the building of the Astoria Bridge. The informal "share" meetings at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. today at the Heritage Museum, 1618 Exchange St. Light refreshments will be served.

Those attending are

asked to bring photographs and documents, or stories and memories. CCHS would like to track down as many people connected to the creation of the bridge as possible. Those who are unable to attend the open houses, but want to get involved or share a story, or who know someone CCHS should be talking to, can email cchs@cumtux.org or call at 503-325-2203.

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