

Artists, homeless to protest Seaside rules

Pipe maker wants to gather on the Prom

By R.J. MARX
The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — Artist Walter Whitman and his companion Dowell McLaughlin say they are being rousted from downtown tourist areas and plan to take their protest public.

Whitman, 58, and McLaughlin, 43, said they will be out on the beach Saturday in Seaside to stand up for the homeless and itinerant merchants.

Whitman makes jewelry, medicine bags and all-natural pipes of bone, stone and seashell. He doesn't charge for the material, but accepts gifts or donations, which he said are freely given.

Whitman and McLaughlin occupied a spot along the Prom until Memorial Day, when they said they were

rousted by Seaside Police.

They say the itinerant merchant rules are too restrictive for artists and performers, many of whom are homeless and may be able to profit from their skills.

A city ban

City ordinances ban begging or soliciting on the streets or in any public place.

Adopted in 1984, the itinerant merchant ordinance regulates the buying and selling of merchandise by individuals who do not have a fixed location. Vendors who use a temporary fixed location to promote or sell merchandise are subject to penalties up to \$500. Charitable and fraternal organizations are exempted.

"If somebody wants to set up a business and sell their hand-painted rocks, they would more than likely be turned down," Seaside Police Chief Dave Ham said.

Most people are "pretty compliant," the chief said,



R.J. Marx/The Daily Astorian

Walter Whitman and Dowell McLaughlin hope to raise awareness of what they say are restrictive rules for artists and entertainers.

but occasionally may become boisterous or loud and may receive citations for disorderly conduct or unreasonable noise.

"Usually we handle it with an educational piece," Ham said, with information about city ordinances and a warning.

Last year, the City Council considered a \$50 a day licensing fee, or \$1,000 a year, to regulate solicitors, entertainers and performers. The proposal would have raised fines to \$750. During the public hearing, words such as "wrong," "brutal," "discriminatory" and "a street-sweeping technique" were used to describe the amendment, which would have expanded the definition of "itinerant merchant" to include anyone who "provides a service ... or solicits for any form of compensation or remuneration."

The proposal was tabled.

'Times have changed'

On Wednesday, Whitman said the city's statutes, written in the 1980s, are outdated.

"Times have changed since then," he said. "Make a permit fee reasonable that we can afford."

Artists, the homeless and supporters are

invited to Seaside beach Saturday, Whitman said. "I'm inviting all the homeless, because I want to raise awareness," he said. "They don't have to stand in a parking lot with their raggedy-ass sign. If you have a gift, a craft, why are you standing there holding a sign?"

The gathering is planned from noon to sunset on the beach about 40 or 50 feet south of the Prom. "I'm going to set myself up, have my generator and I'm going to sit there and carve and make pipes like I always do up on the Prom," Whitman said.

"I will be obedient," Whitman added. "But they ain't going to like how I'm going to do it. I'm going to stand up and holler at the top of my lungs, 'Listen to this!' and I'm going to shout it out for everybody to hear. We are American citizens and we have a right to live, to feed ourselves and to pay our bills."

Survey provides insight for Cannon Beach priorities

City to focus on housing, safety needs

BY LYRA FONTAINE
The Daily Astorian

CANNON BEACH — During two full days of strategic planning sessions, Cannon Beach city councilors and staff considered major community issues, from parking to short-term rentals, before coming to a consensus on city priorities for the next five years.

Results from the recent citizen survey, which received a 40 percent response from residents, guided the discussions last week.

After analyzing survey results and a consultant's past interviews with councilors and staff, the group identified five priorities: affordable housing, infrastructure planning, emergency management, relationship with the community and effective government.

"This allows me to focus on specific goals and allows us to be held accountable for achieving these results," City Manager Brant Kucera said.

Consultant Marv Weidner said a strategic plan is a contract with the community and told the room to set measurable, achievable goals for each priority.

The public could attend but not participate. The plan will be adopted at a council meeting in July.

Affordable housing

The city will aim to add 25 units of affordable housing for various household sizes by 2018, and 25 more units by 2020.

About 75 percent of survey respondents indicated it was essential or every important that the city assist with the development of additional affordable housing.

Most people who work in Cannon Beach, including service industry workers and city employees, live outside the city because they cannot afford it, councilors and staff said. Many said the absence of affordable housing and a school were interwoven issues.

Some recent overnight campers have been employees of Cannon Beach businesses who were unable to find a place in town to live, Police Chief Jason Schermerhorn said.

"When people live in town, they take pride in their community and get involved," he added.

Haystack Rock Awareness Program employees are renting rooms or unable to find housing, program coordinator Melissa Keyser said, adding that affordable housing would increase workplace stability.

City Councilor Wendy Higgins agreed that finding employees is more difficult than ever.

"I live in Tillamook because I can't find housing in Clatsop," Kucera said, calling the affordable housing deficit "terrifying." "I hear from everyone now that

they're afraid their landlord will sell their house and they'll be homeless."

For 59 percent of survey respondents, it is important that the city reduces the number of short-term rentals in residential neighborhoods.

The city could find ways to encourage private ownership for long-term rentals, Mayor Sam Steidel said.

The city tentatively planned to not renew vacation rentals until 2017 and rewrite short-term rental regulations by the end of this year. Although the goals were agreed upon by most, some said it may be unfair to change short-term rental rules.

Councilor George Vetter said Cannon Beach has consistently been a resort town. "People don't want to give up second homes; they want to use them in the summer," he said. "We can't expect that if we limit short-terms we'll have more long-terms."

Emergency management

With the threat of a devastating earthquake and tsunami, city staff and councilors discussed the vulnerable water plant, mass care and the need for a long-term recovery plan.

The group said they want citizens to be informed, safe, confident and healthy. The city should have enough supplies to take care of the population plus 25 percent more, Kucera said. The city will aim for a mass care site — an open and accessible area without infrastructure — at South Wind by the end of 2018.

The city also set goals of creating a water purification system by the end of 2017, hiring an emergency management program manager by mid-2017 and acquiring better emergency communications assets by 2018.

By 2019, the city aims to have 100 emergency-certified residents, recruit more Medical Reserve Corps members and protect computer information in an off-site facility. In five years, the city hopes to have a long-term recovery plan.

Infrastructure planning

The city's five-year goals include saving \$2 million in reserve to relocate essential services to South Wind, and for ratepayers to support utility operations, maintenance and capital improvements, since the city's general fund subsidizes utility funds.

Public Works Director Dan Grassick said it would take years for the city to be able to move critical services, like police, to South Wind, due to the expense of adding roads and other infrastructure.

The city will aim to create 50 parking spaces by 2017, have water and wastewater capital improvements by 2017 and adopt a transportation system plan by 2018.

Councilors said they have heard about or experienced the lack of parking for years in downtown and local streets.

The city will make a final decision on whether to purchase the elementary school site by the end of the year.

Washington state limits carbon pollution from largest sources

Governor has struggled to win lawmaker approval

By PHUONG LE
Associated Press

SEATTLE — Washington state regulators on Wednesday unveiled an updated plan to limit greenhouse gas emissions from large polluters, the latest attempt by Gov. Jay Inslee to push ahead with a binding cap on carbon emissions after struggling to win approval from legislators.

Washington would join nearly a dozen states including California that have capped carbon pollution from industrial sources.

The proposed rule requires large industrial emitters to gradually reduce carbon emissions over time. The rule would cover many industries, including power plants, oil refineries, fuel distributors, pulp and paper mills and others.

Inslee, who has called climate change "the single most important issue of our time," has gained national attention on environmental issues but so far has failed in his own state to pass ambitious carbon-reduction proposals, including a plan to charge polluters a fee for emissions. Frustrated by inaction in the Legislature, Inslee last year used his executive authority and directed state regulators to limit carbon pollution under the state's Clean Air Act.

"Today is an exciting day in our continued quest to provide cleaner air for Washingtonians," Inslee said in a video statement Wednesday. He said carbon pollution is hurting the state and cited two consecutive record-setting wildfire seasons that burned about 2,000 square miles, among other climate-related problems.

West Coast pact

On Wednesday, Inslee joined leaders of Oregon, California and British Columbia in San Francisco to sign a climate agreement with six West Coast cities. The pact says they will work together to encourage zero-emissions vehicles, to reduce energy use in buildings and to take other measures.

Under Washington's proposed rule, expected to be finalized in late summer, large emitters would be required to reduce carbon emissions by an average of 1.7 percent annually.

The rule would initially apply to about two dozen

oil refineries, power plants and others that release at least 100,000 metric tons of carbon a year. Many more facilities would likely be covered by the rule as the threshold is lowered over the next decades.

Kris Johnson, president of the Association of Washington Business, said his group is still concerned about the potential economic damage from this new regulation.

He said in a statement that the cap "sends the wrong signal to businesses of all sizes, both those that are here already and those hoping to relocate here, by driving up energy costs for employers and families."

Economic analysis

According to the state's preliminary economic analysis, the rule would cost businesses between \$1.4 billion and \$2.8 billion over 20 years to comply. But it's also estimated to provide about \$14.5 billion in benefits over 20

years, such as improved environmental and health conditions, according to a state analysis.

Officials with the Washington Department of Ecology say the rule is needed to protect human health and the environment from climate change. It would cover about two-thirds of the state's emissions.

"Carbon pollution has reached rampant levels and we're committed to capping and reducing it," said Sarah Rees, Ecology's special assistant on climate policy.

Some critics said the proposed rule doesn't require enough emissions reductions and disregards current science. "We are extremely disappointed," said Andrea Rodgers, an attorney representing young activists who sued the state to force it to adopt new rules to limit carbon emissions based on the best-available science.

Businesses can comply by lowering their emissions, buying "emissions reduction credits" from others in the pro-

gram, investing in projects that permanently reduce emissions in the state or buy allowances through another cap-and-trade program such as ones run by California and Quebec.

Second attempt

It's the state's second attempt at an emissions rule.

Ecology officials said Wednesday that the latest version addresses concerns raised by businesses, environmental groups and others when the first draft was released. The agency withdrew that draft rule in February to make changes.

Stu Clark, the state's air quality manager, said this version tries to accommodate business growth, recognize actions that have already taken steps to reduce their emissions before the rule takes effect and provides provisions for energy-intensive businesses that face intense global competition.

Sponsored by
Clatsop Unit 12

Taco Salads
With All The Trimmings

Friday June 3rd
4 pm 'til gone

\$8.00

6PM "Karaoke Dave"



ASTORIA
AMERICAN LEGION
Clatsop Post 12

1132 Exchange Street 325-5771

GO ONLINE
www.dailyastorian.com

WANTED

Alder and Maple Saw Logs & Standing Timber

Northwest Hardwoods • Longview, WA

Contact: Steve Axtell • 360-430-0885 or John Anderson • 360-269-2500

OSAA 4A GIRLS TRACK & FIELD STATE CHAMPIONS

Congratulate the Astoria High School Lady Fishermen winners of the OSAA 4A Track & Field Championship

Your 3-line message to the Lady Fishermen championship team and your business name

\$45

Deadline: Friday, June 10
Runs: Monday, June 13
in The Daily Astorian

Contact Holly at 503-325-3211