

# Labyrinths: ‘Your journey through the labyrinth will be as unique as you are’

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walking the path, which gives each person a unique experience. “You fill it with your own meaning, which is the beauty,” said Temple.

A few times, Temple has even taken the labyrinth to the Oregon Youth Correction Facility in Warrenton. She sets up in the basketball gym and inmates with good behavior can volunteer to come walk it.

For those looking to meander a permanent fixture, an outdoor labyrinth is available year-round at the Willapa National Refuge. After

branching off the art trail in the refuge, visitors can take the two-thirds mile walk along Cutthroat Climb Trail.

At the end of the trail is a labyrinth, 40-feet in diameter, that was built in 2010 as an addition to the constantly growing art walk.

Temple suggests those who don’t feel a spiritual epiphany after their first labyrinth experience shouldn’t be disheartened. “Your journey through the labyrinth will be as unique as you are,” she tells newcomers in her homemade pamphlet. “Sometimes, you just can’t turn your monkey brain off.”



Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

Sara Young takes a moment to herself while walking a labyrinth with her husband, Brett Young, on Sunday at Grace Episcopal Church in Astoria.



Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

Astoria Vintage Hardware is located at 101 15th St. along the Astoria Riverwalk.

# Hardware: ‘It’s been in the family for many years’

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“They’ve done nothing wrong. They’re great people, always done what they said they would do. It is what it is. We came in knowing,” he said. “It’s just kind of scary ‘cause we have no place to go now, and we have 90 days to do that.”

## Changes

Englund Marine — which supplies boat parts and fishing gear to commercial and recreational fishermen, and sells industrial equipment — recently set up a new building at the Port of Astoria.

The move was based, in part, on the prospect of selling the Vintage Hardware property. But Kurt Englund said he’ll miss the old building, which has been in the family since his grandfather built it in 1944.

“It’s been in the family for

many years, and a lot of us have spent a lot of years in there,” he said. “It’s a unique piece of property over the water.”

He added that, if everything falls into place, Newport Pacific Corp. may take ownership of the building sometime this fall.

Jolee Bancroft, president of Newport Pacific Corp, said, “We love to support our communities, and we are very excited about the opportunity to come into Astoria and be a part of that community as well. And I think it’s going to be a very good fit.”

The family-owned seafood business, which turns 70 this year, has set up one restaurant in the last 38 years. The seventh Mo’s outlet opened at the Portland International Airport in 2015.

Carrol and Roy Hackett, who have known Johnson and Tuter for several years,

expressed reservations about Mo’s arrival in an email.

“The local restaurants, already challenged by the economy, will be hurt by additional competition from a chain operation. A new food service operation will require a large makeover of a historic waterfront building,” they wrote. “Vintage Hardware uses the building as it is.”

The Hacketts also worry about the parking needs of Mo’s patrons.

## ‘We don’t want to be done’

Johnson and Tuter are aware of these concerns but aren’t taking a position on whether Mo’s belongs in Astoria, or what the restaurant’s impact could be.

“Vintage Hardware is pretty neutral on this,” Johnson said. “It’s the Englunds’ business to do what they want

with their building, and our responsibility to find a new home, which we’re trying to do.”

“It’s really important for us to stay in Astoria, and downtown,” she added.

They are grateful, though, for the community’s passionate response to the displacement of their small business, which supporters have said helps preserve the historic character of downtown Astoria.

“The remarks are flooding in about ‘How can we help? What can we do?’ That kind of thing,” Tuter said. “It’s overwhelming to you to know that they care about you.”

Their immediate goal is to find a place that’s adequate for a workshop, warehouse and retail.

“It’s just the time frame that’s the hardest,” he said, “because we don’t want to be done.”

# Parks: Master plan is ‘a dream come true’ for vice president of Parks Advisory Board

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development charges and increased user fees.

“It’s our hope that this plan is heavily utilized in guiding the department into the future, and that it simply isn’t just a plan that sits on a shelf,” Angela Cosby, director of the Parks and Recreation Department, said. “We’re hoping that it will be very active.”

Jim Holen, a member of the citizen advisory committee, told the council to keep the plan handy: “It’s a tremendous amount of very usable, evidence-based information that will be useful to make decisions about community parks-and-rec programs,” he said.

Tammy Loughran, vice president of the Parks Advisory Board, said the board has wanted such a plan for several years, and the end result is “a dream come true.”

The council, and the room at large, gave Cosby, planner and project manager Ian Sisson and advisory committee members a round of applause for their achievement.

Sisson thanked the community, whose input “made my job really easy,” he said. “The community was so engaged throughout the process and excited to get involved.”

## Selling parks

George Hague, an Astoria resident who said he really appreciates Sisson’s work, offered words of caution and concern.

The master plan contains language that would allow the city to sell or repurpose underused parkland. But, as Hague pointed out, the preponderance of feedback indicates the public would rather see those sites become green space rather than used for commercial or residential development.

“I do not want, in the future, the document to be referred to as one in which the public was in favor of selling parks,” he said.

Hague noted that, according to the plan, the money made from selling parks isn’t required to be reinvested in the other parks. He also disagreed with the notion that the city has an excess of parks, given that the local and visitor population will continue to increase.

Cosby acknowledged that, by and large, residents preferred underused parkland to “go into a natural

state.” But, she said, at least one advisory committee member raised an issue with that idea.

“Unfortunately, for a lot of our park sites, if you just allow it go natural, and not have a heavy hand in that and really reinvent the site, it’s going to become, likely, a lot of invasive species that will start to take over the site,” Cosby said, “and that doesn’t present an ecological benefit.”

The advisory committee decided it would be better to consider selling or repurposing those sites.

Councilor Cindy Price, said that, though she believes “it may become necessary in the future to dispose or reallocate parks land, I’m not calling for any wholesale doing of that at this time.”

Councilor Drew Herzig floated the idea of making sure any prospective sale of parkland would have to be referred to the voters.

“I don’t think any City Council should make that sort of decision without some sort of referendum with the citizens,” he said, adding: “I think almost every city resident would breathe easier if they knew that no city park will ever be sold unless they have a direct vote in it.”

City Manager Estes said the process for selling or otherwise disposing of city parks — which would involve the Public Works Department and require a City Council vote — could be refined later on, but is a separate issue from whether to add the parks master plan to the comprehensive plan.

## Quality of life

Selling or repurposing parks took up very little discussion time at citizen advisory committee meetings, said City Councilor Zetty Nemlowill, who sat on the committee.

“It’s a possible option for an underutilized piece of property that parks is maintaining,” she said. However, “I don’t think there are any parks, per se, on the chopping block right now.”

Putting the full master plan into perspective, she said the document solidly represents the perspectives of the committee and the community, and said she sees no reason not to adopt it.

“I think parks and rec is so important for quality of life for Astorians, and this master plan — I’m excited to see what we can do with it,” she said.



Danny Miller / The Daily Astorian

Mayor Dianne Widdop listens to community members during a public hearing about Gearhart short-term rentals Tuesday at the Gearhart Fire Station.



Danny Miller / The Daily Astorian

Gearhart City Administrator Chad Sweet speaks during a public hearing about short-term rentals Tuesday at the Gearhart Fire Station.



Danny Miller / The Daily Astorian

Gearhart City Attorney Peter Watts listens to community members voice their opinions about Gearhart short-term rentals Tuesday at the Gearhart Fire Station.

# Gearhart: Hearing on proposed amendments continues tonight

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The zone code amendments address transient properties renting for 30 days or less in Gearhart, requiring property owners to license their properties and observe health, safety and parking regulations, 24-hour contact information and neighbor notification, among other conditions.

Two of the most contentious items debated at length Tuesday night were a proposal to limit one permit per resident and the length of time to apply. Councilors altered the language to

allow multiple licenses for an owner of multiple properties; they also requested an extension of the 30-day application period to 60 days, with an additional 180-day period to allow short-term property owners to bring their properties into compliance.

Councilors also revised a Planning Commission proposal to limit the number of guests in a short-term property to 10. If other conditions are met, that number could be higher.

## Heated discussion

The council discussion

came after a heated comment period. “Hats off to everyone involved,” said Matt Brown. He said the rules would make more homes available for long-term rentals and affordable housing. “I think this would be a good example of a responsible way to handle this that other communities in Clatsop County could follow.”

David Russell said short-term rentals represent a “sea change in our community, with a constant turnover of short-term rentals.” He said transient lodging needs to be controlled and

regulated “very strongly.”

Opponents to the rules blamed a handful of bad owners for short-term rental abuses.

“I think we are looking for a problem where there is none,” David Remer, who owns several properties in Gearhart, said. “I’m adamant about going after the issue, not the philosophy of ‘strangers’ coming to our town. We already have xenophobia. It’s a national issue. Where are we going with this? Hold me accountable. Make people behave. Fine me, toss me, do whatever you need to do, but

give me a chance to do this properly.”

Portland attorney Dean Alterman appeared on behalf of five homeowners. He said the proposed rules have “no factual base,” and cannot be adopted by the city without one.

If the rules are ratified by councilors, voters would have a 30-day period to call for a referendum, City Attorney Peter Watts said, with an additional 90 days to collect petition signatures.

If those signatures are collected, the referendum would be placed on the ballot. “If

this were adopted quickly and you got signatures quickly, this could be on the ballot within the November period,” Watts said. “If not it would go to a special election in February.”

“We’re not attempting to eliminate short-term rentals,” Mayor Dianne Widdop said. “What we are attempting to do is let everyone who has a short-term rental keep it and use it within the regulation.”

The hearing on proposed amendments to the zoning ordinance continues tonight at 7 at Gearhart City Hall.