

Cannon Beach city candidates find common ground

Candidates field questions on community

By LYRA FONTAINE
The Daily Astorian



Nancy McCarthy



Herb Florer



Brandon Ogilvie

CANNON BEACH — The three Cannon Beach City Council candidates talked housing, parking, vacation rentals, tourism, preserving the town's village feel among administrative change and other community concerns at a forum Wednesday night.

Each agreed maintaining the small-town character of Cannon Beach would require study, community involvement and creative use of limited resources.

Brandon Ogilvie, Herb Florer and Nancy McCarthy are vying for two spots on the council. While candidates found common ground on issues like the elementary school property and marijuana shops, they expressed some differing views on housing and tourism.

The forum, held at the Coaster Theatre, was organized by Vote Smart Cannon Beach, a nonpartisan and nonprofit group of residents.

Candidates responded to the same questions by moderators Andrew Tonry and Barb Knop and audience members.

A 24-year resident, Ogilvie is a contractor and affordable housing task force member who previously served on the Planning Commission, partly as chairman. He views tsunami awareness, short-term rentals and affordable housing as important issues affecting the city.

Florer, a 12-year resident, is an emergency preparedness committee member and former Port of Astoria deputy director, budget committee member and planning commissioner. He said the town's sustainability, emergency preparation and infrastructure should be addressed.

McCarthy, a 15-year

homeowner and 10-year permanent resident, was a reporter and editor for the Cannon Beach Gazette and is now a freelance writer. The "influx of people," affordable housing and emergency planning are significant issues to her.

City role in housing

Candidates agreed the city should have some role in facilitating affordable housing.

"I'm not a big fan of big government, but I do think government has a place in helping parts of our society that need a little more help," Florer said, adding that city government could help search for solutions before stepping in directly.

McCarthy said affordable housing is needed to have

"the life and diversity we want" and the city is responsible for providing some housing for first responders.

"Many folks that work for the city are unable to afford houses here," Ogilvie said. "I would like to see business members being able to step up if they are that interested in having some type of housing for their employees."

McCarthy said a connection between short-term rentals and affordable housing exists in that renting a home short-term derives income and therefore increases home values, making them less affordable.

Florer, whose wife Tami Florer owns Cannon Beach Property Management, said short-term rentals have little effect on affordable housing.

"If people don't rent their houses, many of them will just be second homes," he said.

Ogilvie agreed property owners currently renting homes out short-term are unlikely to rent homes long-term at affordable prices, but said for people simply renting out their house, there could be a way to "incentivize renting houses out to people who need it."

Marijuana shops

Each candidate supports allowing recreational marijuana shops in town. In November, a ballot measure will ask residents whether recreational marijuana sales should be prohibited in Cannon Beach.

"It's going to be on the ballot and citizens will decide," Florer said. "If there's a demand in town, then hopefully there would be a store that would be in good taste and fit in town."

"They have to follow strict state regulations and also have to follow our own ordinances, including design review," McCarthy said. "I do not see any reason why marijuana should not be sold in town."

Candidates had slightly different ideas on Cannon Beach as a tourist destination.

Ogilvie said many depend on business from tourists for their livelihood.

"I'm conflicted at almost all times but it's what we are," he said. "I think the best we can do to welcome people to this town and at the same time try to create an atmosphere that is workable for those of us that live here."

McCarthy said the city needs to find a solution to balancing tourism with the year-

round community. "We have to decide if we want to maintain a small village arts atmosphere that we have or if we're going to become a high-end destination resort," she said. "I'd like to see us preserve our village atmosphere."

Florer said tourism is identified in the comprehensive plan as part of the town's economy, and he is unsure if conflict exists between the business and residential "village" parts of town.

'Cannon Beach way'

Asked to define the "Cannon Beach way," Ogilvie said civic participation has driven the best decisions in town.

"If you feel impassioned about an issue going to come up for a vote, please participate," he said.

Florer praised the involvement of residents, including many in the room.

"I want to see us remain thinkers," McCarthy said. "I don't want to see a bunch of sheep out there."

Answering what makes Cannon Beach special, the candidates agreed it was the people.

"I've met the best people I've ever met in my life," Ogilvie said.

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All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the personal representative, or the attorney for the personal representative.

ATTORNEY FOR PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE:
Michael A. Autio, OSB #91200
93750 Autio Loop, Astoria, OR 97103
Phone: (503) 325-9155

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE:
Judith Sharon Mattson
c/o 93750 Autio Loop, Astoria, OR 97103
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Date of first publication: October 13, 2016

Published: October 13th, 20th, and 27th, 2016

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Rating: BRONZE
Solution to 10/12/16

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