

# Lane fee: Fee is less than the \$5-10 originally proposed

Continued from Page 1A

The Astoria City Council voted 4-1 Monday night to charge youth swim teams \$1 per lane per hour. The standard fee already in place is \$25 per lane per hour. The two groups affected by the council's resolution, the North Coast Swim Club (a nonprofit organization open to swimmers ages 6 to 18 years old) and the Astoria High School swim team have not been charged a fee before.

In a memo to council members, City Manager Brett Estes noted that the swim club and the school swim team would not be able to afford the current \$25 fee. Staff instead proposed reduced rates specifically for nonprofit and government-funded youth swim teams that use the Aquatic Center's lanes for practice for a minimum of 100 hours per year. All swimmers will still be required to purchase a monthly or daily pass as well.

Councilors Cindy Price, Zetty Nemlowill and Bruce Jones all voted in favor of the resolution. Councilor Tom Brownson was the sole "no" vote. Mayor Arline LaMear, after a long pause, gave her "yes." She had asked the council to consider waiting



Boys competing in the 200-yard freestyle dive into the pool during the Andrew Nygaard Memorial Invitational Swim Meet in 2014 at the Astoria Aquatic Center. The Astoria High School swim team will now need to pay \$1 per lane per hour.

Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

until after a budget work session with the Parks and Recreation Department scheduled for Thursday before voting on the new fee resolution.

"I would very much liked

to have waited until we had a discussion on this (at the work session)," LaMear said after the meeting. "It seemed like kind of a piecemeal decision."

All the councilors who voted "yes" said they did so reluctantly. At Nemlowill's suggestion, the council included a promise to revisit the decision within the

next year.

Last year, the parks department had recommended that the swim club pay \$5 an hour per lane effective last November and \$10 per lane start-

ing this November. The City Council rejected the proposal and agreed to discuss a more significant youth discount.

Members of the North Coast Swim Club were present at the meeting Monday night and club President Patrick Wingard urged the council to consider the money the club already brings to the Aquatic Center in usage fees and facility rental fees, as well as what it brings to the community in general. The meets it hosts each year bring families to the area, who stay and spend money, he said.

"I would just offer to you that the club pays its fair share," he said. "As the club grows, revenue to the city grows."

Since November, the club has grown from 16 youth swimmers to 25. With the new fee, the club estimates that the annual cost per swimmer in the club could go up by \$6. For parents who already pay for some combination of annual registration fees, monthly dues, Aquatic Center passes and swim meet entry fees and help with fundraising, this could be \$6 too much, Wingard said after the meeting.

No representatives from the high school swim team spoke at the meeting.

## Arch Cape: County will take the time to review the decision before taking action

Continued from Page 1A

unincorporated town south of Cannon Beach. Commissioners have deemed the group unnecessary, time-consuming, expensive and a potential legal liability, voting to dissolve it twice.

Supporters of the 34-year-old committee challenged the move, citing the state's obligation to have citizen involvement in land use decisions as a primary reason.

### Community engagement

Cameron La Follette, who helped represent the petitioners from Arch Cape through the Oregon Coast Alliance, said the county shouldn't expect every community to collect input in the same way.

"If Arch Cape wants more opportunities to review, the county should honor that," La Follette said. "In my experience, the more engaged a community is, the better. Land is an absolute — there's only so much of it."

County Manager Cameron Moore said the decision to remand the decision back to the county boiled down to a technicality. The county did not publish a separate, specific notice of a public hearing. Moore said he will take time to review the decision before taking a next step.

"This was simply an oversight on the part of county management," Moore said in an email.

The Arch Cape committee is the last of its kind in Clatsop County. Supporters argue the county should honor the community's decision to keep the committee active.

"The county has been looking for a way to get rid of our committee for some time," Tod Lundy, who was chairman of the Arch Cape Design Review Committee, said in February 2016. "It's a burden for them to come down to Arch Cape and review every sizable remodel and new building."

### Quasi-judicial

One issue for the county is

missioner Lianne Thompson said this week there is a way to have Arch Cape neighbors participate without a formal committee. She is recommending the town funnels development recommendations and reviews through a neighborhood association, which would allow for more voices to be heard rather than a few on a committee, she said.

"I believe in neighborhood livability. I am a neighbor," Thompson said. "Accountability can be used as a tool or a weapon, and there is too much judicial power given to too few people."

Thompson also said she thinks the town is more divided on the issue than the Oregon Coast Alliance asserts. She said she's had residents tell her they are scared to express their opinions if they differ with the committee's view.

"It's gone from being used as a tool to becoming a weapon," Thompson said. "It's focused on how much power the committee has rather than other's well-being. It's become members banging on someone's door telling them to trim their tree."

La Follette said issues can be resolved through a cooperative process rather than complete dissolution, and said the committee needs to be heard.

"There is a difference between having a hearing and being listened to," she said. "Land use politics is messy. Everyone wants to do different things with their land. The county needs to allow for that complexity."



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Ryan Snyder, president of Martin Hospitality and incoming chairman of Travel Oregon, points out details of the brewing operation at the Public Coast Brewery in Cannon Beach.

## Snyder: Plans to listen to the needs of communities, those in the tourism industry

Continued from Page 1A

"We are starting to feel a push for resources," Snyder said, referring to towns like Cannon Beach that can bring in thousands of visitors during the peak summer season. "It's important, more than ever, to be mindful of these communities with strategic management."

Abstractly, his goal is to help balance the economic impact that helps provide 105,000 tourism-related jobs with listening to the needs of communities and operators within tourist attractions.

Places like Multnomah Falls — the second most photographed spot in Ore-

gon — is an example of this, Snyder said. The attraction's popularity created parking issues, so Travel Oregon worked with local communities to start a shuttle service.

He also said he sees environmental organizations like SOLVE serving an important educational role for the increase in day travelers coming from an expanding Portland metro area — a population who may not see their physical impact on a site during a short stay.

"It's important to maintain our resources so people

who wake up the next morning still have positive experiences," he said.

### Hospitality

Snyder has been president of Martin Hospitality since 2004, but has been involved in many aspects of the hospitality industry for the majority of his life.

Court Carrier, the executive director of the Cannon Beach Chamber of Commerce, works closely with Snyder, and said his experience will make him a good fit.

"He is truly one of the most committed people I know," Carrier said. "He is extremely engaged and experienced with this industry."

While he will act as a statewide representative as Travel Oregon chairman, Cannon Beach will always be in the back of his mind.

"This city is very important to me," Snyder said. "When it comes to making decisions, if it's not good enough for the state, than it's not good for Cannon Beach, and vice versa."

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