

Hood to Coast looks to ink long-term Seaside deal

Discord from 2015 relay a thing of past

By R.J. MARX
The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — Two years ago it was unclear if Hood to Coast would return to Seaside.

The iconic 198-mile relay starting at Timberline Lodge and ending at the Seaside Prom first arrived here in the 1980s. But mounting complaints from residents and businesses about unruly behavior, traffic and poor organization brought angry crowds to City Council meetings and threatened to end the relationship.

The 2015 relay may have been the low point: with high winds and downpours, crowds filled Broadway and tensions soared. Business owners said organizers arbitrarily closed



R.J. Marx/The Daily Astorian

Hood to Coast Chief Operating Officer Dan Floyd spoke at Monday's City Council meeting.

streets, tapped into private power sources and illegally sold wares on the street.

After the 2015 run, the City Council threatened to sever ties to the event. Dozens of local business owners signed a letter expressing discontent "that the overall impact

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Dan Floyd

Hood to Coast chief operating officer

of hosting this massive event during the busy summer tourist season is negative."

At the time, some councilors called the event "overrated" and sought greater responsiveness from organizers.

On Monday night, evidence of the new bond between the city and Hood to Coast organizers was on full display.

Hood to Coast Chief Operating Officer Dan Floyd appeared before the City

Council looking to lock in the race for 2018 and begin discussions for a possible multi-year deal.

"We want to come back and we want to come back for many more years," Floyd told councilors. "Rather than asking for one year, we want to look for a long-term commitment to be a very long time."

Councilors praised the organization and its role in the community.

"This is an incredible event and I'm very proud to have it in Seaside," Councilor Dana Phillips said.

Floyd attributed the improved relationship to city leadership and personnel changes at the Hood to Coast organization.

"We were not without sin in this case," Floyd said. "In the last five years there has been a pretty significant change in staff and the way we've trained volunteers."

Runners from 43 countries and 50 states participated in this year's race. The race brings in about 18,000 runners, Floyd said, and the city generally collects about \$1 per head.

Funds from Hood to Coast raised more than \$730,000 for Providence Cancer Center in 2017.

The Seaside Chamber of Commerce nets about another \$30,000 by staffing and operating the event's beer garden.

"This is a lot different than two years ago," Floyd said after the meeting. "The sentiment and the feeling has really changed dramatically and in a very positive way."

"They've addressed situations that in the past years that were negative and have turned them into positives," Brian Owen, executive director of the Seaside Chamber of Commerce said. "It's a good, strong partnership. We all win."

Future meetings with Hood to Coast organizers will determine details about the 2018 race, including compensation and a potential long-term deal, City Manager Mark Winstanley said.

In the meantime, the council approved the one-year extension.

"I am fully confident that we will be working together for a long time," Floyd said.

The 2018 race is scheduled for Aug. 24 and Aug. 25.

Morgan to help with Astoria planning

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Daily Astorian

A former Cannon Beach mayor will assist Astoria's Community Development Department while the city searches for a new director.

Mike Morgan, who was Cannon Beach's mayor from 2009 until 2015, will serve as interim city planner, helping City Planner Nancy Ferber tackle various projects in the department while the city searches for a replacement for former Community Development Director Kevin Cronin. City Manager Brett Estes, himself a former Astoria community development director, will act as interim director in the meantime.

Cronin, who was hired in 2015, announced in September that he was leaving the department to pursue other opportunities. His last day was Friday.



The Daily Astorian

Former Cannon Beach Mayor Mike Morgan will serve as interim city planner in Astoria.

This isn't the first time Morgan has taken on city planning work with the city.

His time with Astoria dates back to the 1970s and he was the city planner from 1987 to 1991. He has also served as interim city planner before, most recently to fill a gap in 2015 after long-time planner Rosemary Johnson retired.

"I've seen something like four decades of development here," Morgan said.

When he learned Cronin

was leaving, he offered his services to the city. He will be in the Community Development office three days a week. At 71 years old, he's not interested in applying for Cronin's old job.

"I'm happy to have my freedom and help the city find a good person," he said.

Estes said the cost of hiring Morgan will depend on how long Morgan will need to stay on as interim planner, but it will cost less than paying a director's salary.

He said the city is also looking at how to use some of the salary savings to have planners with the Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce review more permits. The organization works with cities and agencies along the Columbia River estuary in Oregon and Washington state, and already reviews some permits for Astoria. Planners there could have the capacity to take on more, Estes said.

State claims feds are backtracking on Portland Harbor cleanup plan

By ANDREW SELSKY
Associated Press

SALEM — Officials in Oregon are accusing the federal government of going behind their backs to undermine a plan to clean up toxic pollution along the Willamette River in Portland.

In January, two weeks before President Barack Obama left the White House, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced a final \$1.05 billion cleanup plan for a 10-mile stretch of the Willamette River that became polluted from a century of industrial use.

But the EPA, under President Donald Trump, has been negotiating part of the plan with some of the companies responsible for cleanup, Richard Whitman, the director of the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, complained in a letter to a regional EPA boss on Thursday.

Gov. Kate Brown made the letter public on Monday. She urged the EPA "to honor its commitment to work collaboratively and transparently with the state, city, and all responsible parties."

In his letter, Whitman told Michelle Pirzadeh, acting regional EPA administrator in Seattle, that the changes could lead to "significant additional delays in the implementation of any remedy."

Whitman said a draft agreement between the EPA and some companies responsible for the cleanup calls

for more sediment samples to be taken, and for fish consumption rates to be updated. He said such tactics appear intended to call into question the underpinnings of the cleanup plan announced in January. Furthermore, Whitman wrote that the federal agency's failure to coordinate and consult violates a memorandum of understanding between federal, state and tribal parties.

Mark MacIntyre, spokesman for the EPA's regional office, had no immediate comment. He said he was seeking information from EPA headquarters in Washington, D.C., but noted that Monday was a federal holiday.

In an email to Pirzadeh, Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler and Commissioner Nick Fish said they are deeply troubled that state, tribal and local stakeholders have been excluded from an opportunity to review changes in plans.

The polluted stretch of river is called the Portland Harbor Superfund Site. Superfund sites are contaminated areas identified by the federal government as candidates for cleanup.

"We must move forward with the cleanup of the Portland Harbor, but the federal administration's latest direction to the EPA undermines the progress we've made," Brown said.

Aerial photos show wildfire losses in the Gorge

Associated Press

CASCADE LOCKS — New aerial photos show severe damage to some parts of the Columbia River Gorge from a large wildfire that continues to burn.

The photos taken Sunday by The Oregonian show

the areas most impacted by the blaze include Oneonta Gorge, Eagle Creek and Tanner Creek.

McCord Creek near Cascade Locks and Moffett Creek are also severely burned.

Some trails in the gorge won't open until spring and some may not open for a

year or two.

The fire erupted Sept. 2 and has burned more than 75 square miles. It continues to burn in some areas but is not expected to grow.

The risk of rockslides and mudslides in the burned area is high as the winter rainy season begins.

Inspection finds maintenance flaws at salmon pens

Associated Press

OLYMPIA, Wash. — State officials say an inspection has found maintenance issues at Cooke Aquaculture's farmed salmon operation off Bainbridge Island.

The state Department of Natural Resources on Monday issued a default notice and gave the company 60 days to fix the problems.

Public Lands Commissioner Hilary Franz said in a statement that they need to make sure Cooke's salmon

farms are structurally sound given the August collapse at its Cypress Island facility. Tens of thousands of non-native Atlantic salmon were released into Puget Sound.

A contractor hired by the state found issues at Cooke's farms in Rich Passage, including a hole in netting

and severe corrosion on floating piers. The state says companies that lease state aquatic lands must maintain property in good order.

Another state agency approved a permit last week for Cooke to stock its net pens with 1 million juvenile Atlantic salmon.

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Maritime Museum
1792 Marine Dr., Astoria, OR

CATHLAMET, WASHINGTON • Thursday, October 19
Norse Hall
444 State Highway 409, Cathlamet, WA

All meetings are open from 4 to 7 p.m.

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