

Parks director: Took leave before he could be interviewed by city

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Jonah Dart-McLean, the city's parks maintenance supervisor, is leading the parks department in Williams' absence.

Descriptions of Williams' behavior, along with documents relating to the investigation, were provided to The Astorian by sources who requested anonymity to discuss their concerns about how the city handles personnel issues.

Williams was hired to replace Angela Cosby, who left for a parks job in Colorado in 2018. Under Cosby, the city made a difficult transition toward a budget intended to reflect the true costs of running the sprawling parks department, which is responsible for interests as varied as the Astoria Riverwalk, the Astoria Aquatic Center, Lil' Sprouts Academy and the Ocean View Cemetery in Warrenton.

Williams grew up in rural southeast Idaho and worked for several parks departments, most recently in Roswell, New Mexico. He moved to Astoria with his wife and the three youngest of his six children.

Before the claims of sexual harassment surfaced, others at the parks department had voiced concerns about Williams not long after he started work last January.

Documents indicate the city had conversations with Williams about his behavior and keeping his comments appropriate. The documents refer to hugs between Williams and an employee at the parks department that were not obviously

sexually charged, but exceeded the bounds of workplace professionalism and led to Williams' taking harassment training online. The city also retained an organizational expert to address the work relationship between Williams and the employee.

In mid-November, documents show, the employee contacted the city's human resources assistant on a co-worker's behalf after hearing her account of how Williams' hugged her suggestively and wanted to discuss his pornography problem.

Soon after, the woman who claims Williams was sexually harassing her met with the human resources assistant and the city's labor attorney at City Hall. In an interview that lasted several hours, documents show the woman outlined how Williams' increasingly intimate texts and physical displays of affection progressed from side hugs to more suggestive embraces and comments.

At first, the woman told the city, she and others wrote off Williams' behavior as quirky.

Williams had offered her advice and seemed interested in helping her succeed at work, she said. But his behavior began to disturb her and she said he did things she felt were manipulative and designed to confuse her or put her in a bad light with others, documents show. She said she was afraid she could lose her job.

The woman said she told Williams his actions were inappropriate, but his behavior continued.

Edward Stratton contributed to this report.

Theater: 'Astoria loves its arts and supports artists'

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August at the Liberty Theatre. The show runs Jan. 17 through Jan. 19 and Jan. 24 through Jan. 26.

"It's good for me because it was the ability to put on a show without a lot of the preproduction that goes into a play that takes a lot of time, energy and money. Something that I could put on fairly quickly to build up some money and support to get the theater going as a new business," Moore said.

He said there will be another reader's theater show in February and an Irish play in March titled "The Weir," which opens March 13.

Moore plans to book bands for the weekends there aren't theater performances and to also rent out the space.

Moore admits that owning the space and theater is more a labor of love.

"Astoria loves its arts and supports artists. (It's) not a secret that theaters aren't moneymakers. I mean I'm not going to pull much if any profit from the endeavor."



NAN, a robot, played by Gigi Chadwick, delivers a glass of orange juice to an exasperated Jerome, played by William Ham, in Pier Pressure Productions' 'Henceforward.'

Moore is excited to have a constant, regular place to do plays in Astoria and to get people going out on the weekends.

"I'm excited to have a space that's an unusual size,

you have the small place like KALA - it's great but it's very small, you have a large place like the Armory, we're just sort of right in the middle and it's just the right size for a lot of people, so

it's also just really nicely located, right downtown," he said. "Just bringing performance art to Astoria, not that it isn't already here, but giving more of a voice to it, giving more of an option."

Adams: 'I have great girls who work with me'

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made me a better mom and a better wife just knowing I can do this for my family," she said.

Adams took over the business in October after Darla Kurns, the previous owner, relocated and decided to sell.

Adams said Kurns has been a longtime friend and mentor.

"Even before I worked here she was the one who actually made me pretty much go to school to be an aesthetician," Adams said. "She was like, 'I have room for you. Go to school, I'll save it.'"

Adams said she went to school and the room was hers after she finished.

Since taking ownership, she has upgraded the logo and decor, but otherwise has run the business similar to Kurns.

"This is a really good thing," she said. "They really took care of the place. They built really great relationships with the clients and I didn't want to change that ... I like the fact that people still feel confident and comfortable coming in here because of that. Because I didn't change a bunch of stuff"

Although Adams has the typical stresses that come

with owning a business, she said the ongoing support from Kurns and her family makes her feel like she made the right decision and will succeed.

"I have great girls who work with me and I definitely couldn't do it without them, either," she said. "They've been super loyal and supportive and stood by my side through it all."

Adams said she never imagined owning her own

salon, especially at such a young age, but she feels like it happened at the right time.

"It almost pushed me in the spot I needed to be in my life," she said. "I always want to be a role model for my kids and I always knew that what I do in life is something I want them to look up and say, 'I'm so proud of my parents. They gave me the best that they could.'"

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