

Port: 'The dawn of a new era'

Continued from Page A1

Commissioner Dirk Rohne praised the city for the support and the collaborative effort.

"By having a third party talk to all parties considered and involved, it has helped bring clarity and created a practical roadmap that we can all support and move forward with in advancing our collective interest — making our region more workable, usable and attractive," he said. "There are a million things about the plan that I think are positive."

Frank Spence, the president of the Port Commission, echoed Rohne's comments and reiterated the Port and city's commitment to getting the plan implemented, assuring that it will not "sit on the shelf."

"This is the first day, like I said, 'the dawn of a new era.' When the city approves it in their May meeting, then we get the wheels roll-

ing," he said.

Commissioner Robert Stevens voiced support but questioned the flexibility within the plan moving forward.

Developers will get more clarity on what is possible after the city weighs potential code changes in consultation with the Port.

Will Isom, the Port's executive director, added that while some elements of the plan are specific, other aspects, like the fishing village, leave room for flexibility.

The potential "early wins" in the plan include replacing the Chinook Building with interim uses, implementing lighting and wayfinding along the Astoria Riverwalk and improving access and amenities at the West Mooring Basin.

"It's a positive step," Isom said after the meeting. "It's been a long process and a lot has gone into this. But I'm excited to get moving on actual implementation."

The Port of Astoria and the city are collaborating on a master plan for the waterfront in Uniontown.

Lydia Ely/The Astorian



Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

The city is weighing public places where homeless people can camp.

Homeless camping: The city plans on identifying places people can sleep

Continued from Page A1

Mayor Bruce Jones agreed with the approach. "Because that is going to be the most challenging for the community to find — I won't even say the acceptable places for camping — but the least objectionable places for camping," he said.

City Councillor Roger Rocka suggested getting input from social services providers on the manner component. He also urged the city to move forward with a plan to provide a place for people to store their property.

"Whether we're homeless or housed, we have stuff, and that has to be accounted for," Rocka said. "So expecting someone to not bring their stuff to a sleeping place probably isn't objectively reasonable. I think our service providers can help with that. And I'm sure some of our home-

less population will want to chime in on what that might be."

The city plans on identifying places people can sleep, which would make the rest of the city off limits. The city may also be required to include restroom and shower facilities and even security.

During a work session last month, the city presented a list of more than a dozen potential locations, along with pros and cons for each site. The places identified include the Pacific Power property near Youngs Bay, the parking lot of the Astoria Aquatic Center and the parking lot at Shively Park.

The City Council on Monday also moved forward with ordinances dealing with quality of life concerns that stem from the city's homeless population.

City councillors unanimously approved an ordi-

nance designed to incentivize the return of stolen and abandoned shopping carts.

The ordinance will declare shopping carts a public nuisance and require Safeway and the Astoria Co+op — the city's two biggest grocery stores — to pick them up within a few days.

The businesses may be subject to a \$50 fee after the first courtesy notice if the carts are not picked up.

In the coming weeks, the City Council is also expected to approve an expansion of its ordinance that prohibits abandoned vehicles and storing vehicles on streets.

The ordinance will spell out ways to handle different situations, including vehicles that are unregistered, derelict or hazardous. The ordinance will also address people who live in recreational vehicles and periodically move a short distance away to avoid being towed.

Trio: 'It was not an easy decision for us'

Continued from Page A1

The festival had scheduled a concert titled the "The Siege of Leningrad," which included pieces by two Russian composers present during the World War II attack on what is now St. Petersburg.

On Monday, President Joe Biden joined several world leaders in calling for Russia President Vladimir Putin to be tried for war crimes following evidence of civilian casualties in Ukraine.

"In light of the horrific news coming from Ukraine, we have decided to make adjustments to the programming of our upcoming Third Dimension Festival," Jennifer Crockett, the Liberty Theatre's executive director, said in an email. "The original premise of the 'Siege of Leningrad' performance was to demonstrate how the tragic circumstances of

World War II were made into art by Shostakovich.

"Given recent events, we no longer feel it is appropriate to make this statement, given the very active and current terror being inflicted on the people of Ukraine."

The "Siege of Leningrad" performance, set to take place on June 25, has been changed to "Hermitage Piano Trio," and will include pieces from their repertoire.

The piano trio, whose members are from Russia, have been outspoken against the war in Ukraine. The musicians and theater worked together when deciding to change the program.

Sergey Antonov, the trio's cellist, said he values community feedback.

"Even though I think the intent and the idea behind this program is close to my heart, it's just that the world situation becomes too sharp

and too intense to do this program," Antonov said. "It was not an easy decision for us to do, but we decided that there's probably going to be another year and another time for this program to see the light."

Another recent change to the program was a much easier decision.

Asiya Korepanova, a pianist who debuted last year in Astoria, will be returning after previously being unable to join. Along with joining some of the chamber music concerts, she will have a solo performance and will also play a four hand duet with the piano trio's Ilya Kazantsev.

Beyond that, the festival will proceed as planned.

"Regardless of what's going on in the world, we're still intensely looking forward to it. We are excited. Hopefully everything is going to go as planned," Antonov said.

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