

Parks

from 1A

“It is very clear you want it to remain a public park. So a deed restriction will be recorded. That’s our intent.”

He said neighborhoods surrounding Ocean Woods have expressly stated “desires to keep it a public park and keep it in public ownership,” as “the park aspect is very impor-

tant to the neighborhood.”

“We’ve heard that over and over again from you folks that it remain a public park,” Russell said.

More than 30 people attended the public meeting, including Florence Public Works Director Mike Miller, who was called upon several times to answer questions.

He outlined the proposal for Harbor Vista’s improvements, saying the campground, accessed off North Jetty Road, has a failing septic system.

The goal will be for the City of Florence to annex the site so the campground can get access to city services, mainly the sewage system.

Florence will hook up 27 of the campground’s 44 sites, as well as a dump station, the caretaker house and the bathrooms and showers.

Some grant money already went into prepping the park for the city’s project.

Under the proposal, the new sanitary sewer system inside Harbor Vista will have a pump station, which has a certain amount of capacity. Excess capacity in the lines can be used for other annexed properties on Rhododendron Drive.

Miller also said city staff is amenable to the project, as benefits include gaining a new customer for city services, creating excess capacity for future expansion and making it easier for people to annex and join the system down the line.

“It plays very well in that

aspect,” Miller said. “It also plays very well in providing a service where a system has failed. There’s a reason they want to connect at Harbor Vista.”

Throughout the meeting, the audience asked for clarification and follow up on several aspects of both the Harbor Vista annexation and the Ocean Woods jurisdictional transfer.

Many of the people have lived near Ocean Woods for more than a decade, and have stepped up several times in recent years to save the park.

Many of the properties near Heceta South and Idylwood subdivisions border or have views of Ocean Woods, located at the end of Heceta Park Way from the north and Saltaire Street from the south.

Lane County Public Works Director Tim Elsea acknowledged the county’s rocky history with the area.

“A few years ago, there was a proposal to log Ocean Woods, and we heard from you that that is not something you want,” he said. “That is not something that is on the plan at all. As a matter of fact, we are hoping that providing more local control for Ocean Woods is something that would be attractive to the neighbors.”

Many people at the meeting said they wanted the deed restriction to be nonreversible under all circumstances, saying previous restrictions on the property were lifted with-

out public notice in the early 2000s.

Russell agreed to look more specifically into the language for the deed restriction.

Other people worried about the eventual annexation of Ocean Woods if Florence takes over the jurisdiction.

Miller said, “In the city’s 2020 Comprehensive Plan, the park is designated as Public Open Space. We do not have a plan for that site. We would have to go through a process. ... If we have this property, we can identify what improvements, or to leave it alone, that the community wants for that area.”

He said that it is all speculative at this point in the planning, and that any further action, including annexation, would require a separate public process.

“This project, giving sewer to Harbor Vista and having people be part of the city to get that service, is our only plan,” Miller said.

Jerry Mounts, secretary of the Heceta South Homeowners Association, has been active in the Lane County Parks Master Plan process.

“This seems like a very good deal for the City of Florence. I would appreciate not having to go to Eugene to be a part of meetings. (We’re) keeping the future of Ocean Woods as something that local people have a say in,” Mounts said.

Over the past years, com-

munity members have gathered more than 500 signatures in a petition to keep Ocean Woods as an undeveloped park.

“The feeling I got from residents is that they are happy with Ocean Woods as it is,” Mounts said. “That’s going to be the least expensive option.”

As the public meeting wrapped up, Elsea said that the proposal is on the agenda for the next Lane County Board of Commissioners meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 12, beginning at 9 a.m.

“All we’re asking the board at that point is to direct staff to proceed on working with the city staff and city council to work towards an agreement on the proposal,” Elsea said.

He said that comments received that night would inform the proposal to the commissioners to pursue further negotiations with the City of Florence.

“As this project has developed, we see this as a win-win-win. One win is that Ocean Woods stays under local control. ... Another win is that the septic system at Harbor Vista gets replaced and it is put in with the city sewer system. We’re still able to offer that amenity to the residents and visitors, and it will continue to be a campground even though it will be annexed into the city. And it’s a win for the city because it provides them with line capacity they don’t currently have,” Elsea said.

The audience said they agreed with that — for the most part.

“One suggestion would be to consider a fourth level of ‘win,’” one attendee said. “That future generations’ interest is preserved in having this particular property in a conservation easement delineating future use.”

Audience members reiterated that they wanted to make sure deed restrictions limiting future development are very specific and cannot be removed.

Miller said, “This is our best opportunity to work with county staff. It has to go through a process; it is a negotiation. County commissioners and city councilors are the only ones who can define this type of transaction. As staff, there is this proposal out there we are amenable to. It will have to go through a whole other process at the county level and city level for adoption.”

Lane County Commissioners meet at Harris Hall in the Public Service Building, 125 East Eighth Ave. in Eugene.

For more information on the meeting or Lane County Parks, visit www.lanecounty.org.

People who wish to sign up for emailed notifications about Ocean Woods and Lane County Parks in the area can email mike.russell@co.lane.or.us.

Who's Who IN FLORENCE REAL ESTATE

Lynnette Wikstrom

Lynnette Wikstrom is a born Oregonian and has lived in the Florence area since 1979. For 25 years she owned and operated restaurants. She then had a career shift and has been enjoying all aspects of selling real estate since 2005. She was recognized as Realtor of Year in 2013. Among many hobbies and interests, she's also an avid reader and has taken up the frustrating game of golf. She loves her home town and invites you to allow her to show you what Florence has to offer!



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Team Christina Voogd

Christina discovered Florence in September 1990 and decided after a 3 day visit to relocate from the Oakland/San Francisco Bay Area with her family. She has been selling the charm, ambiance and beauty of Florence ever since.

Christina along with her team members Amanda Austin, Marketing; Sarah Quinn, Buyer Specialist; and Tina Harris, Assistant have continued to stay the top sales team in the Florence Real Estate market since 1995. She has been ranked among Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices top 100 agents nationwide for the last several years.

She has served many years with the Central Board of Realtors in various positions, and served on several committees for community fund raising events throughout the years. Being a Realtor means more than selling homes, it's about people, family and the strong feeling of community. No sale or listing is too small or too large. There is a home and location for everyone and we are here ready to assist you with your hopes and desires when the time is right for you. We look forward to hearing from you so we can be of assistance.



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Del Phelps

Del's career in Real Estate Development started in 1989 and continued through 2005 in the development of Florentine Estates, a premiere Gated 55 and older, active retirement community of 443 homes on 180 acres. In 1998 he received his real estate license and worked out of the Prudential Branch office in Florentine Estates. In 2005 moved into the main office on 101, now Berkshire Hathaway Home services NW and is still there doing what he loves, selling real estate.



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Alva Bracey

As an experienced regional sales leader with a track record of success within the Enterprise space, I have my dream job helping people buy and sell real estate. I'll always be grateful to my wonderful wireless and information technology family who have helped put me in this fantastic position.

From my past work travel, I now have specialized knowledge of our beautiful Oregon Coast, Willamette Valley, and Portland Metro residential and commercial properties.

I have a passion for wireless, cyber security, backup technology, real estate dream homes, investment property, and commercial real estate.

If we don't already know each other, let's connect!

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Natalie Nagrone

Natalie has lived in Florence since 1999 and decided last year to start selling Real Estate. She works for Key Realty - Florence. She's had a very (exciting - successful - productive) first year selling both Residential & Commercial Properties. She is very excited and eager to work with both Buyers or Sellers. Natalie enjoys spending time with her family camping, boating, fishing, road trips, going to NASCAR races and ATV riding. She also loves people and making them feel right at home. Let Natalie be the KEY to your Real Estate needs.



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Steve Earnshaw

Steve has been honored twice as Realtor of the Year in 2012 and 2016. He currently serves as President of the Central Oregon Coast Board of Realtors and State Director of the Oregon Association of Realtors. He holds the professional designations of Accredited Buyer Representative, Certified Residential Specialist, Graduate-Realtor Institute, and Seniors Real Estate Specialist.



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Amy Johnson

Amy was raised in Florence and is happy to serve the community with their real estate needs. Buying or selling she strives to make the process enjoyable and stress free. Since 2013, Amy has been in partnership with her mother-in-law, Desiree D. Clifton, Principal Broker at TR Hunter. Amy is a COCBR Director. The two work under the team name, the J Group.

Call, email or stop by today to see what their team can do for you.



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Desiree D. Clifton

A Florence native, and Principal Broker at TR Hunter Real Estate. Desiree enjoys serving the community with their real estate needs. Desiree can be found participating in many community projects and events in addition to working at TR Hunter with her partner and daughter-in-law, Amy Johnson. The two work under the team name, the J Group. Call, email or stop by today and see what their team can do for you.



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Jim Hoberg

Jim Hoberg is a Florence native, and has been working in Real Estate since 1989. He has served as a Principal Broker for 28 years, and is the “founding father” of West Coast Real Estate Services, Inc. He has obtained several designations that require continuing education, which keeps him on the cutting edge of the industry and he is constantly looking for ways to expand his areas of expertise.

Jim enjoys helping people find solutions to their real estate needs and discovering why Florence is such a great place to live.



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