

**District** from 1A

After that discussion, Grzeskowiak said that building tours will be available for those interested in seeing the issues of the high school firsthand.

"Lastly, while people are on tours, the steering committee will peel off to prepare the final recommendation language to present to the board on Wednesday, Feb. 14," he added.

The meeting will also be the first opportunity for community members to review the results from a survey conducted by phone and on-line which gathered opinions related to the need for district upgrades.

Grzeskowiak said the phone survey brought in 372 responses and the web survey brought in another 262 responses

"Both surveys are synchronous," he said. "The community is generally supportive of a new high school rather than

remodeling the old building, and the community is generally supportive of the total bond amount to include the elementary and middle school projects."

The majority of the other work that will not be at the high school will be at Siuslaw elementary. This could include rebuilding the south end, seismically securing the north end and rerouting the bus and car travel lanes.

"The goal is to reset the clock on our buildings to make sure they are future ready for weather and operations here along the coast," Grzeskowiak said.

Decisions as to the final projects to be included in the bond proposal will be made in the next few weeks.

Siuslaw School District Board of Directors will select the projects for which they will recommend voters approve funding at the Feb. 14 meeting.

**Environment** from 1A

He also wanted to clarify his position on the issue of climate change as it relates to work the committee has done and will do in the future.

"I want you to know how much I appreciate the work you are involved in and the positive impact your work has on our community," Henry said. "I really think your contributions are an important part of our city's team effort and I really value your contributions and hard work."

Committee members thanked him for taking the time to speak with them and said they appreciated the positive words spoken on their behalf.

Greene was the second and final public speaker of the evening.

He began by reiterating Henry's words concerning the importance of the work EMAC was doing. He then went on to

suggest a larger role for the group as the city addresses a growing number of environmentally-related issues.

Greene spoke specifically about the recent setbacks in recycling in the Pacific Northwest, particularly as regards to plastics.

The councilor spoke about the possibility of turning a statewide problem into a long-term opportunity for local residents.

According to Greene, the lack of recycling options available to Oregonians might best be addressed by a concerted effort to create an industrial solution to the plastics issue, saying there is an opportunity to turn a currently negative situation into one that might ultimately provide good jobs for local residents.

"The vision I am sharing is to have a facility here that takes everybody's plastic, whoever wants to bring it to us, and create a business with however

many employees it needs to take plastic from its original form, break it down to the appropriate form and turn it into usable products that can then be sold," Greene said.

He provided handouts to EMAC members with examples of recycled plastic products and companies that are currently involved in turning waste products into saleable merchandise.

The committee said it was interested in the possibility of addressing the plastics situation in Florence and discussion commenced immediately on how and when the process suggested by Greene could begin.

Following the discussion, the 2018 committee members were formally introduced. Maureen Miltenberger was elevated to chairperson and Linda Serbus was voted in as vice-chair. Both votes were unanimous.

Miltenberger was enthusiastic about the issues awaiting

EMAC. "My first year on EMAC was wonderful and this year looks to be even better. Who knew that meeting monthly to talk about garbage and recycling could be interesting and even exciting?" she asked. "Although I am a little apprehensive about being the chairperson, mostly because I will be attempting to fill the shoes of David Lloyd, our past chair, with the support of Linda Serbus our vice chair, and the rest of our group I am sure things will go smoothly."

The group then discussed the issues to be considered by EMAC this year, creating a work plan that included scheduling discussions on waste rate collection fees, plastic bags and potential changes to the upcoming Black and White waste collection event.

The meeting was adjourned after scheduling the next EMAC meeting for March 6.

**Port** from 1A

Port Commissioner Bill Meyer, who lives in an apartment building adjacent to the docks, said he was sure that all of these things had occurred at one point.

"As a neighborhood we had issues with certain miscreants, primarily youth, who were giving our neighbors a hard time," he said.

He invited the moorage customers to join the neighborhood watch program that was active in Historic Old Town.

"We worked in cooperation with the police department, and as far as I know in the last two years we haven't had a problem," he said.

The commission said they realized that the port needed more proactive measures to prevent incidents from happening in the first place. McClure suggested looking into grant funding for a security gate at the docks.

"I would also like to move up on that project," McClure said. "The moorage customers would have access between dusk and dawn. They would have the ability to go in and out of the gates, they would just be closed to the public. The gates would only be unlocked during daylight hours."

Beyond security, the letter also stated that there were problems with dock sanitation, citing "unsightly and offensive beer/wine bottles, cardboard and lunch containers, paper cups, diapers, seabird droppings, dog messes, discarded immature crab and small fish carcasses and fish guts."

Commissioner Mike Buckwald took umbrage with the characterization.

"I'm reading this and it makes me think we don't do anything. I'm trying to understand the legitimacy of the complaint. Sure, I've seen trash after events and things laying around. But I have not observed this kind of mess."

Port Harbormaster Tracey David stated that the kind of sanitation issues the letter characterized were "freak occurrences."

"During the summer you get your paper plates," he said. "Fish carcasses from people crabbing. A chicken leg here or there. All the chicken bones that come up are from the seagulls vomiting on the docks. Yes, you get the occasional dog walker who lets their dog defecate on the dock, and they keep walking, but the way this makes it sound, the docks are covered in crap. And I'm sorry, but this is completely out of line."

While McClure agreed that trash can accumulate, particularly during the summer months, she stated that the staff does wash and clean the docks frequently throughout the day.

However, the commissioners did say that there were

issues with seagull droppings, an issue they have been trying to work on for some time. At a meeting last month, commissioners discussed multiple ways of scaring off the birds in a responsible manner, including loud noises and drones. They are continuing to work on a solution.

After the letter was discussed, Eugene artist Bayne Gardner addressed the commission about doing a mural on the blue building on port property, which houses Vintage Blue Warehouse Estate Sales.

"I'm an artist from Eugene and I specialize in murals. Last week I did a mural in Junction City of sockeye salmon (as a donation), and after completing that, I had an idea to do a chinook salmon. I thought Florence would be another great place," he said.

Gardner was willing to do the mural for free, but found that he had to go through the Florence Public Art committee first, which does not allow artists to paint murals for free, nor create a mural without committee approval.

Public Art Committee Chairman Harlen Springer, who regularly attends port meetings, explained the reasoning behind the decision.

"If artists can come into town, go up to an owner, and say, 'I want to put a mural on the side of your building today,' then you can sort of imagine what that can lead to," Springer said. "Another thing is a fairness issue. If we let Bayne put up a free piece of public art here, then the other artists around town will call me and say, 'What's up with that? I thought we had a process here that we all got a chance? How is it fair that you let one artist put up art here and we didn't even know about it?'"

Port Commissioner Nancy Rickard asked if the committee looks for a specific theme when choosing a project.

"We specifically don't want

a theme," Springer answered. "Some people would like us to have a theme all over town, but we decided as a committee we don't want to do that. We want artists to express themselves. That gives you a different look all around town."

"But you're still going to exert control over the art," Meyer said.

"To the point that it's not some obscene swastika," Springer said. "I'm always concerned about the word 'control.' And somebody needs to do that. We just want to make it fair, so art doesn't become a free for all and go crazy."

To allow artists local artists like Gardner to do murals for free, Springer suggested an alternative approach.

"What we talked about today was maybe we pick 10 or 12 spots around town and put that out to local artists and say, 'We will waive the fee for you, and we'll let each of you paint one of these buildings,'" Springer said.

Springer said. "That way it's fair, and everybody has the opportunity in getting art around town. We are trying to get art in the community."

Springer stated that he had reviewed Gardner's work and was impressed.

"He's on the same wavelength as we are about our desire to do public art," he said. "We support his thinking."

Gardner also agreed with the public art committee, saying he fully agreed with the rules.

"My point in coming here is to make you aware of the potential of that as well," Gardner said. "It would work well with my ideas for painting it. People don't really come down to the dock, but with public art, it can really pull people down this way. It gets more people out and makes a landmark."

After the meeting, the commissioners held an executive session, returning afterwards

with an announcement on the port manager position.

Originally, the open position was to be closed at the end of January and the applicants reviewed. However, the commission opted to extend the time period for the recruitment of the port manager "until filled."

The job description and application form can be found at portofsiuslaw.com under the Port News section.

**Help Us Feed Little Poncho**

Poncho is 26 years old. He was in the Rose Parade in Pasadena CA. Poncho has lived at the SACRED ANIMAL SANCTUARY for the past 15 years. Monthly food cost, \$164.00. Please make a donation at Shorewood Senior Living 1451 Spruce Street in Florence.

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