

**PORT from page 1A**

The plan, as envisioned by city staff, would create additional seating areas along the port's boardwalk area and the placement of picnic tables in the heavily trafficked grass plots north of the boardwalk.

The cost for the equipment, \$44,361, was awarded from Travel Oregon and information provided to port commissioners regarding the IGA stated, in part, the following:

"The City of Florence proposes that the city will maintain ownership of all the furniture and equipment purchased, but the Port of Siuslaw will maintain the new equipment and furniture and, if anything happens, will notify the City of Florence's Public Works Department," Moehrke said. "The port will also be responsible for the disposal of garbage from

the new garbage receptacles at the expense of the port."

The proposal also stated that installation work would be completed by Florence Public Works staff, with the objective to be completed around Memorial Day weekend. The cost of the installation work would be covered by the City of Florence as an in-kind match to the Travel Oregon grant.

The term of the agreement would be for 15 years. At that time, the port and city could renegotiate the IGA, after confirming the furniture and equipment are safe to remain in place.

Commissioners then asked a question regarding liability to Commissioner Craig Zolezzi, who works in the industry.

Zolezzi was relatively unconcerned with the potential for serious liability issues, although he did recommend due

diligence before finalizing any decision.

"It's pretty typical that when we are going to partner with another public entity, that we scratch each other's back and hold each other harmless," said Zolezzi. "That being said I don't want to hold up this process because I think this is a wonderful idea. It benefits everyone, but I think it would be wise of us to just email to the SDAO (Special Districts Association of Oregon), and they can review it and get back to us — probably in a day or two. If they are OK with it, then we can have our legal guys put their eyes on it, tell us if it is good and we can get it done."

The IGA's project includes the placement of six picnic tables in the grassy areas by the boardwalk and the installation of four smaller tables, seven

benches and 14 stools for more public seating options.

Commissioners expressed no further objections to the proposal and authorized Port Manager David Huntington to finalize the IGA when it is reviewed and authorized by the Florence City Council at one of its April meetings — depending on the time required for legal review by port attorneys.

Later in the meeting, Port of Siuslaw Administrative Assistant Kelly Stewart presented the monthly financials, which reported a slight decrease in campground occupancy and total expenditures for the month of \$134,227.

Huntington's report was brief but reminded commissioners of an Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) program to deter cormorants from eating hatchling fish along locations on the Siuslaw

River contiguous to port property.

"The last week of March, we are starting our cormorant hazing project and have lined up to help," said Huntington. "Last year was the first time we were given the opportunity to participate and they are giving us another opportunity this year — and we hope it is successful."

Huntington also stated there would be no use of projectiles or violence against the birds. They would be blocked by boats and volunteers from feeding on juvenile fish populations, with the focus of moving the birds to another area rather than being euthanized.

The next Port of Siuslaw Board of Commissioners meeting will be Wednesday, April 21, at 7 p.m.

For more information, visit portofsiuslaw.com.

**EMAC from page 1A**

As is often the case during the public comments portion of EMAC's

meeting, area resident Mike Allen was the singular in-person speaker. Allen, a local advocate for an official climate change proclamation, spoke to councilors about the ongoing opportunity for Florence to participate in the Lane County Climate Action Policy initiative.

Allen, along with wife Pat, also participate in the "Adopt a Street Program" and, during his comments, encouraged others to join the program while thanking public works employees for their ongoing assistance.

"This month, Pat and I celebrated one year of participating in the Adopt A Street program. We each spent about 140 hours collecting about 240 pounds of trash from 2.2 miles along Rhododendron Drive from 35th Street to Sebastian Street," Allen told the council. "We thank Jake Krieger at Public Works for picking up our accumulated trash each month and supplying us with bags."

Allen also thanked Public Works Director Mike Miller for arranging the placement of Adopt A Street signs with the Allen's names at each end of the street.

"Adopt A Street is a great program and needs to be supported and expanded by the EMAC," Allen said. "We'd love to see the entire length of Rhododendron Drive

covered by volunteers, especially in the area of the transfer station."

Speaking of transfer, the rate area residents pay for the removal and transfer of the solid waste generated by their households was the next major portion of the Tuesday meeting. It was also the subject of an earlier committee executive session to review financial information involved in the analysis of the current rate structure for local waste haulers County Transfer & Recycling and Central Coast Disposal.

Rates charged to residents by the companies are reviewed and assessed using a complex process which requires the submission of financial information related to costs, unanticipated expenditures and current rates charged customers for their services. Last year was an exception to this process as concerns about the COVID-19 pandemic, along with dramatically changing waste patterns, were cited in a decision made by the city to postpone a formal review for a year.

At Tuesday's meeting, Chris Bell, from Bell Associates, provided a comprehensive analysis of the complete waste collection paradigm.

The extensive report is available online and details the costs associated with delivering the services required by the city,

the margin of profit allowed under the contracts in place with haulers and the expected change to the transfer and "tipping" fees charged to haulers by Lane County.

Bell walked EMAC members through his report, answering questions while providing the basis and analytics used in his calculations. In addition, he talked about how the uncertainties surrounding COVID-19 are factors in the calculations of rate change.

The committee decided to accept Bell's report and will hold a public hearing to allow for discussion on the subject of rate review at a future meeting.

In other action items, David Gardiepy, founder and executive director of EcoGeneration, provided members with written information on upcoming "Take Back" recycling events planned by his nonprofit.

Last December, Florence participated in its first EcoGeneration event, which served upwards of 150 Florence households. This year, EcoGeneration will be offering three Recycling Take Back Events in Florence on May 2, Aug. 1 and Oct. 3.

Gardiepy also asked

EMAC to support a sponsorship request for funding for \$400 to assist with the operational costs associated with conducting the three events. These expenses include transportation, supplies and event equipment and processing of the recyclables.

The sponsorship, which includes recognition at the events and in all local advertising and promotions, was approved unanimously by committee members.

Next, the issue of initiating a home composting program received a boost, with funding provided for the purchase of a small number of kits and instruction on their use — all of which came in response to a proposal from EMAC member Vickie Philbin.

EMAC also decided to participate in the Siuslaw News' "Recycle Guide" and chose, due to COVID-19 concerns and financial limitations, not to sponsor an Earth Day-related film.

The last issue discussed was the request by Walter-Sedlacek to create a subcommittee to discuss climate change. There was immediate opposition to having the discussion Tuesday due to the

amount of time the discussion might take and the length of the meeting already underway.

There was also the need to decide whether to include the creation of the subcommittee in the overall EMAC recommendations for inclusion in the Florence City Workplan, scheduled for discussion at the April 5 Florence City Council meeting.

Eventually, a date of March 30 was agreed upon as a date for a special session of EMAC to consider the proposal prior to the council meeting, with the final vote passing 5-4.

For more information about EMAC, visit ci.florence.or.us.

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**PARK from page 1A**

Washburne reservations can be made through OPRD's partner site, oregonstateparks.reserveamerica.com or by calling 800-452-5687.



Visitors should continue to follow safety protocols while visiting state parks: limit the size of gather-

ings, wear face coverings, give space to others and wash hands often.

More information about the park is on the Oregon State Parks official website at stateparks.oregon.gov.

For information on what to expect while visiting state parks, visit the Oregon State Parks COVID-19 FAQ page.

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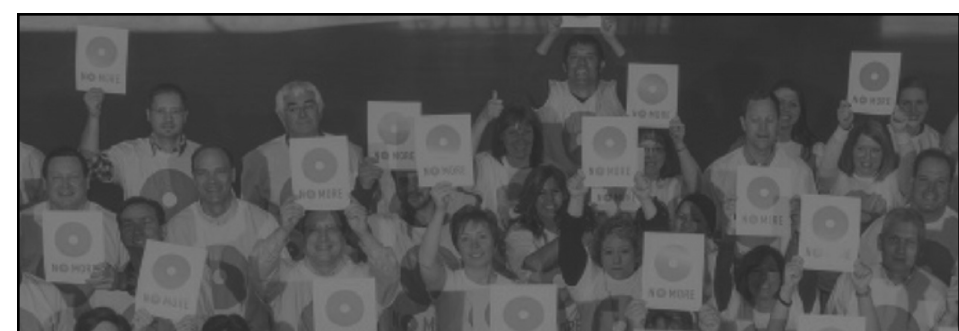
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