

Food: Pod development slows as interest wanes

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asked city commissioners, who serve as members of the renewal agency board.

The board had wanted to take the empty city-owned lot, which had been benefiting no one, and generate some revenue for the city. Last year, four businesses wanted to move onto the lot.

"There was interest," Mayor Henry Balensifer said. "I understand that we've built it out partially. We've made a

lot of promises about what we would provide and we've been very slow in the delivery."

Last fall, Balensifer had recommending holding off on landscaping the lot, which currently has one food cart tenant, Tres Bro's.

The pandemic, inflation and supply issues have compounded the problem.



Balensifer

"You need a certain amount of foot traffic to make something like this work," Commissioner Gerald Poe said. "Right now, Warrenton is lacking that a little bit."

Agency members agreed the city needs to move forward with the project and pave at least half of the lot.



Poe

A second project on the group's agenda was to build a small park on a lot the city owns behind City Hall.

Spruce Up Warrenton proposed naming it Peterson Park, after the original owner.

Spruce Up member Bren-



Hoxsey

da Hoxsey suggested the city lease the property to the group for \$1 a year for 25 years and allow the group to build and maintain the park.

Hoxsey gave the agency "A little history on what we've done in the past" to improve downtown.

Members have pressure-washed sidewalks, removed trash and weeds, cleaned debris-strewn property and made improvements at Lighthouse Park.

"We'd like to put this gazebo in as an improvement to the city," she said. "We'd run it for weddings, receptions, city meetings."

In addition to the 30-foot gazebo, the group would add landscaping, picnic tables, benches, corn hole games and exercise stations.

Agency members agreed to place the issue on a future agenda and will contact the city attorney about legal or other liability issues.

Aquarium offers beach workshops

Seaside Aquarium is sponsoring an educational series of workshops on the beach in front of their building.

The Seaside Beach Discovery Program provides learning opportunities about the marine life found along Seaside's open sandy beach, as well as beach and dune ecology, and the many ways the beach has changed over time.

The aquarium also hands out cleaning supplies for those who want to help remove trash before it ends up in the marine environment.

Discovery sessions are free and held from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays.

If it's raining or the wind picks up, call the aquarium at 503-738-6211 to ensure the program will take place.

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