

## Former port deputy director runs for council

### Florer has Marine Corps, volunteer experience

By Lyra Fontaine  
Cannon Beach Gazette



Herb Florer

economic development, resiliency planning and emergency planning.

Florer's Transportation Task Group

Local volunteer and former Port of Astoria deputy director Herb Florer is running for a spot on the Cannon Beach City Council in November.

Florer and two other residents, Nancy McCarthy and Brandon Ogilvie, are vying for two seats on the council. The filing deadline for candidates is Aug. 30.

In previous Cannon Beach City Council elections, candidates have run unopposed.

"I thought it was important for people to be given a choice," Florer said.

A Cannon Beach resident for 12 years, Florer served on the city's Budget Committee and Planning Commission for eight years.

"It was interesting, educational and rewarding to hopefully be a constructive part of helping Cannon Beach be a great place to live," Florer said.

He is now on the emergency preparedness committee and considers long-term planning and resiliency to be important issues in earthquake and tsunami readiness.

Florer spent about seven years working in marina administration and as property manager and deputy director for the Port of Astoria. He represented the port at regional meetings on transportation,

helped contribute to the 2013 Oregon resilience plan, which involves improving recovery for the Cascadia earthquake and tsunami.

Florer has also been a U.S. Marine officer, U.S. Naval Academy instructor trainer, paralegal representing veterans for VISTA and the city of Seattle, and a manager for a small sailing business.

As a Marine, he underwent training in Hawaii, receiving lessons in leadership, public speaking and teaching, and was deployed for six months in Twentynine Palms, California.

He graduated with a bachelor's degree in political science from Reed College in Portland.

Florer would like to see Cannon Beach "continue to be Cannon Beach," though he said there are no quick fixes for maintaining the community's livability.

"There are two sides to every story," he said. "It's important to listen and not leap to conclusions."

Florer said his family background and work and volunteer experiences influenced his decision to run for council.

"If I have the ability to contribute, I should," he said. "I think my background and experiences might be useful."

## Arch Cape dwellers fight to save design review

### Advisory group reviews projects

By Kyle Spurr  
EO Media Group

Arch Cape residents continue to fight for their citizen advisory committee.

About a dozen people from the unincorporated town south of Cannon Beach came to a Clatsop County Planning Commission meeting Tuesday, Aug. 2, in Astoria to speak out against the county's plan to dissolve the Arch Cape Design Review Committee.

After listening to the public comment, the Planning Commission agreed to extend the discussion to September before it sends a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners.

The Board of Commissioners discontinued Arch Cape's committee in February, calling the group unnecessary, time-consuming, expensive and a potential legal liability.

Former interim County Manager Rich Mays accused the committee of harassing a county employee about her disability. Despite her requests, Mays claims, the group voted to move its meetings to a building that is not a federal Americans with Disabilities Act-approved facility.

The county's decision to dissolve the group was challenged with the state Land Use Board of Appeals, which sent the issue back to the county.

The county again plans to discontinue the design review committee, but now through a land use process that includes public hearings before the committee, Planning Commission and Board of Commissioners.



DANNY MILLER/EO MEDIA GROUP

### The Clatsop County Planning Commission listens to Arch Cape resident Michael Manzulli speak during a public hearing on the Arch Cape Design Review Committee in Astoria.

Members of the Arch Cape Design Review Committee, also known as the Southwest Coastal Citizens Advisory Committee, cite county bylaws that say a committee can only be disbanded if it is inactive. Since the group is active, the members recommend they should stay.

The committee makes recommendations on any land use or development applications in the Arch Cape area.

"It's been a busy committee," former member Linda Eyerman said.

However, county counsel Chris Crean said bylaws do not prevail over the county's ability to create or disband a committee whenever it is appropriate. Crean said an issue for the county is the Arch Cape committee is a quasi-judicial committee that requires extra staff time to keep minutes and send notices for each meeting.

"It's the quasi-judicial function that they are conducting that is creating most of the difficulty and liability for the county," Crean said.

In addition to continuing the discussion, the Planning Commission directed county staff to

research alternatives to resolve concerns without disbanding the group. Various options will be presented at the September meeting.

### Losing history

The 39-year-old committee is the last active citizens advisory committee in Clatsop County. It is becoming commonplace in the region for such groups to be dissolved.

Last week, Pacific County Commissioners in Washington state voted to end Oysterville's Design Review Board. The Oysterville board had existed for four decades.

When the Clatsop County Board of Commissioners unanimously voted in February to dissolve Arch Cape's committee, it offered to recognize neighborhood associations instead.

Residents are not ready to entertain such an idea, as they continue to protect the current committee.

"Any ad hoc committee that is appointed for an individual issue wouldn't necessarily be the same people that would be appointed for another issue," Gordon Church, of Arch Cape,

said. "We lose all the history and structure of Arch Cape's involvement with the county."

Virginia Murphy, a committee member, took it one step further by suggesting the county reintroduce other citizen advisory committees around the county.

"In my eyes, the current Board of Commissioners and staff would better serve the citizens by instituting advisory committees in the other areas to decentralize government and build grassroots involvement."

### Why now?

Each of the residents who spoke asked why the county was taking action now.

Committee chairman Theodore Lundy wanted to contest the image of the group as an unnecessary bureaucratic layer. He also challenged the former interim county manager's assertion that the group created a hostile work environment.

"We serve the community," Lundy said. "We are there to help people work their way through the process."

County counsel explained how plans to dissolve the group had been in the works for a while.

What Mays witnessed at a committee meeting in January accelerated the process.

"This creates a huge liability for the county," Crean said.

Overall, the Planning Commission showed its support and understanding to the residents.

"It seems like a greatly valuable committee, and I was real disturbed that this whole thing would go this way," Commissioner Christopher Farrar said. "To me, the idea of rewriting the ordinances so the committee doesn't exist seems like some kind of a fairy tale, frankly."

## Park Service archaeologist explores Middle Village through artifacts

Myths from Page 1A

Wilson and his team studied the Chinook Indian Middle Village, once located at the mouth of the Columbia River in an area on the Washington side of the Astoria-Megler Bridge.

Numerous valuable items found on the site indicate that the Chinook were successful early traders, contradicting myths about Native Americans being cheated or culturally exterminated by fur traders, Wilson said.

"In this case at the Middle Village, we see that nobody was getting ripped off," he said, adding that the Chinook "struck hard bargains" with fur traders. "The trade elevated the Chinook."

Objects like nails, pottery, clay tobacco pipes, glass bottles and animal or fish bones can inform archaeologists about a society's architecture, household, smoking or drinking habits and meals.

"Those bits and pieces that represent the rubbish of past society can tell us a lot about those people," Wilson said.

Gun flints, arrowheads, alcohol bottles re-used for other purposes, Chinese coins, silver tinkers, knives, daggers, copper objects, pottery and ceramics

were among the items found at the Middle Village.

"What is really unique about the Middle Village is that traditional artifacts that you would normally find at a Chinook Indian village were very sparse," Wilson said. "But the fur trade objects were abundant."

One particularly valuable found object was a tea caddy, which in the early 19th century and late 18th century was for the wealthy.

Preserved plank structures found through archaeological testing suggest the existence of three to five former homes. The houses appeared to have been rebuilt several times, which was not found in more stable

sites further up the river, Wilson said.

As for what the Chinook ate in the Middle Village, Portland State University professor Virginia Butler identified sturgeon and salmon bones, seeds, roots and wapato, an Indian potato.

When the Corps reached the site around 1805, the Middle Village was unoccupied by the Chinook. Clark created a detailed map of the surrounding area at the site, also referred to as Station Camp.

Wilson received the John L. Cotter Award for Excellence in National Park Service Archaeology for his work at the Middle Village.

"It contextualizes the Lew-

is and Clark expedition," Wilson said about the findings. "It also shows what a Chinook Village might have looked like when Lewis and Clark came up the river."

NeCus Village has parallels

to the Middle Village, Wilson said. NeCus likely had contact with Europeans before Lewis and Clark arrived.

Wilson, along with other archaeologists, did recent fieldwork at NeCus Park.

"By exploring NeCus and comparing it to Middle Village and other village sites from the area, we can get a better handle of not only the region but also the Clatsop-Nehalem people," Wilson said.

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