



Cannon Beach weighs affordable housing options

Task force moves forward, with some pushback

By Lyra Fontaine
Cannon Beach Gazette

The Cannon Beach affordable housing task force has zeroed in on rental housing for middle-income

residents, moving closer to identifying locations for workforce units and concentrating on areas outside of downtown to conserve parking and provide lower-cost alternatives.

City goals include providing 25 affordable housing units by 2018, then adding 25 more units by 2020.

"I think what makes Cannon Beach unique is that you own the land," Todd Johnston, Northwest Oregon Housing Authority executive

director and a task force member, said at a meeting last week. "What has made it difficult in other communities is there's no place to build. A developer would have to come in and purchase the land."

The task force has seen 24- and 25-unit affordable housing concepts for the RV Park on Haskell Lane and the downtown Spruce Street parking lot, and a nine-unit design for affordable housing at the former

Cannon Beach Children's Center in Tolovana Park. In a final report to the council, the task force might not suggest housing in downtown, but may recommend using small park model homes as one portion of affordable housing on the city-owned RV Park. Consultant Terri Silvis estimated the parking lot option would cost about \$4.5 million, the children's center property \$1.7 million and the RV Park about \$5 million. The numbers

assume each square foot is \$150 and the city leases land to a real estate developer. Task force members discussed opportunities for local funding and private investors.

Narrowing down the options

The task force agreed that putting affordable housing on the downtown Spruce Street parking lot was

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A change of use for former children's center

Options include community event space, affordable housing

By Lyra Fontaine
Cannon Beach Gazette

The former Cannon Beach Children's Center building is vacant, but could be used as a community hall soon — or eventually torn down for affordable housing units.

As the city works toward its goal of increasing affordable housing, Cannon Beach city councilors will explore how the structurally sound building can be used. Building housing on the site or using the existing space for a community hall were discussed as potential options at a work session Tuesday, Aug. 9.

Another idea is to use the space as an interim community hall while the city decides whether affordable housing is viable on the site.

"It's a wonderful asset, no matter what you decide to do with it," City Manager Brant Kucera said. "It could be a great site for affordable housing but it could also be a great site for a community hall or senior center."

The building became city property after the children's center closed in April due to lack of funds and declining enrollment.

Kucera said the building could become a maintenance issue in terms of landscaping and paying for heat in the winter. He asked the council to begin thinking about how to use the building in the next couple of months.

"From staff's perspective, we want to know what road we're going to go down," he said.

Housing, community hall are options

In a letter, Cannon Beach Children's Center board president Barb Knop proposed keeping the

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BAGPIPE SUNSET IN CANNON BEACH



The unknown Scotsman

While watching the sunset at Tolovana Thursday, Aug. 18, visitors were treated to a bagpipe farewell to the setting sun by an unknown Scotsman. "This seemed a novel way to celebrate the closing of another day," commented photographer Bob Kroll.

BOB KROLL PHOTO/FOR CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

Details of Seaside bond vote coming in September

District hopes to relocate three at-risk schools

By R.J. Marx
Cannon Beach Gazette

Seaside School District Superintendent-emeritus Doug Dougherty said details of a bond vote for a new campus will be unveiled next week.

In announcing the Sept. 1 meeting, Dougherty also thanked Weyerhaeuser Co. for a gift of 80 acres to be used for the relocation.

A \$128.8 million bond measure to relocate the schools on a hill east of Seaside Heights Elementary School failed in 2013.

The amount of the new bond will be guided by results from a polling firm, Dougherty said in July, and will likely be less than \$100 million.

The proposal will be shared at the board meeting and it's always possible that the board may change the presented language, Dougherty said.

According to Dougherty, the district "faces a predicament without precedent or equivalent in Oregon." Three of the district's four schools are located just a few feet above sea level within the tsunami inundation zone.

Three schools — Broadway Middle, Seaside High School and Gearhart Elementary School — are too far from high ground

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New blue lines mark tsunami safe zones

Finding the way to safely evacuate from Haystack Rock

By Lyra Fontaine
Cannon Beach Gazette

"Follow me" are two words Jeneé Pearce-Mushen encourages residents to tell people in the event of a major Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake. But to help lead others to safety, one needs to first understand where to go when the ground starts to shake.

A walk on Saturday from beach-access stairs near Haystack Rock to the assembly area, organized by Haystack Rock Awareness Program, presented an opportunity to practice. The walk was part of the program's summer potluck. Groups took about 10 minutes or less to reach the assembly area. The goal is to reach an assembly area within 15 to 20 minutes of an earthquake.

According to the tsunami evacuation pedestrian map, the best route from the stairs by Haystack Rock is to take Viewpoint Terrace and Arbor Lane to the Midtown South assembly area on Arbor Lane and South Spruce Street.

The area by the rock is considered the Midtown South area. Cannon Beach is divided into 10 areas, from the north end to south Tolovana. Each area has its own evacuation route map, which can be found on the city's website.

For more opportunities to practice, residents and visitors can join monthly evacuation practice walks to designated assembly areas throughout the city. Led by Pearce-Mushen, the walks were originally organized by former City Councilor Nancy Giasson to educate participants and test routes.

Participants meet at Cannon Beach City Hall at noon every fourth Monday of the month. Upcoming walks are on Sept. 26, to the assembly area from the presidential streets in midtown; and Oct. 24, to the assembly area from midtown south.

After each tsunami walk, emergency preparedness committee member Les Wierson and Pearce-Mushen provide a report for the city. Wierson's recommendations after the walk Saturday included painting one of the beach access stairs blue, adding another route sign and better marking at the assembly area.

New blue lines, signs installed

The Cannon Beach emergency preparedness committee and the city



LYRA FONTAINE/CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

Blue lines, accompanied by "Leaving tsunami hazard zones" signs, have been marked on Ecola Park Road at North Hemlock Street.

have marked blue lines on pavement at two areas: the intersection of Ecola Park Road and North Hemlock Street, and South Hemlock Street by the "S" curve.

Inspired by blue lines indicating tsunami safe zones in areas of New Zealand, the markings are accompanied by signs notifying pedestrians and vehicles that they are leaving the tsunami hazard zone.

Wierson said the blue lines raise daily awareness, reduce the number of signs needed and allow people to

plan their own evacuation route. "If people don't have a map, they will see it with signs and by the mark in the pavement," he said.

The emergency preparedness committee has worked on the blue line project for about a year and a half, chairwoman and founder Karolyn Adamson said. The committee has spent many years working on signs and developing routes.

"We've made a lot of progress, but we still have a long way to go," she said.

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