

Change could come to emergency preparedness committee

Cannon Beach panel studies restructuring

By Lyra Fontaine
Cannon Beach Gazette

A proposed restructure of the Cannon Beach emergency preparedness committee would make the city's emergency manager, police chief, public works director, fire chief, Community Emergency Response Team leader and Medical Reserve Corps leader permanent voting members.

But will there be enough voices for residents?

Committee chair Karolyn Adamson, who created the committee in 1999, said she strongly opposed the draft ordinance because it would reduce citizen input. "It's extremely important to keep this citizen advisory committee in effect as it is now," Adamson said. "I think citizen committees are the bedrock of democracy. People are starting to feel right now like they don't have input in this city."

Three council-appointed community members and a nonvoting City Council liaison would complete the 10-member group, which would be renamed "emergency management committee" if the proposed ordinance is approved.

At a work session last week, some members opposed the creation of one emergency management committee combining citizens and city staff. Others said bringing staff on board could benefit the committee.

Adamson said citizen involvement is key in neighbor-



LYRA FONTAINE/CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

Paula Vetter, left, with Les Wierson, Police Chief Jason Schermerhorn and Karolyn Adamson.

hood outreach and recovery planning, as most city employees do not live in Cannon Beach.

City Manager and Emergency Manager Brant Kucera and Mayor Sam Steidel edited the proposed ordinance.

"If (staff) are going to have to carry out this work, we need to have input on the work," Kucera said. "I have limited resources to do things. If we want to accomplish something, we need voices to say what we can or can't accomplish."

Different views

The committee — which provides evacuation planning, public education and advice to the council — has four community members and Cannon Beach Rural Fire Protection District Chief Matt Benedict.

"The way I see the restructuring is that it's beneficial for the committee," member Paula Vetter said. "We've gotten to a

point where I think this committee needs to grow. We have a lot of great ideas but we're splintered."

Vetter said she would like the committee to have a long-term vision, and including city staff and the fire chief could help implement the committee's ideas.

Member Herb Florer, a candidate for City Council, said a "broad, general and long-range" citizen advisory committee could coexist with the city's emergency management command structure.

"We're looking at two different things that are being combined into one and not very well," he said, adding that residents will be crucial for education and long-term planning for the months and years after an emergency. "It does take citizen involvement for recovery and resiliency."

The committee would be "dead" if the changes are

made, and the new group could be too large to effectively make decisions, member Les Wierson said. He suggested splitting the committee into four divisions on emergency preparedness, incident command, emergency preparations and recovery.

"There are separate phases to disaster response," Wierson said. "You can't do everything in one committee."

Members pointed to the committee's success in creating evacuation routes and advising the council on topics like radios.

Kucera said the city's strategic planning goals include a long-term disaster recovery plan, emergency response communications and water system resiliency.

"It incorporates what all of you mentioned today," he said.

The proposed changes will be discussed again at a work session in late September.

Commission rejects short-term rental ordinance change

Council could make final decision on amendments

By Lyra Fontaine
Cannon Beach Gazette

The City Council hopes to make short-term rental regulations "clear and understandable" by the end of the year. The city is working on code amendments to streamline permitting processes.

A proposed change would stop short-term rental decisions from being considered land-use issues, shifting review from the Planning Commission to the City Council.

The amendment seeks to make the permitting and appeals process smoother for property owners and administrators, City Planner Mark Barnes said Tuesday. Appeals would likely go to Circuit Court instead of the Land Use Board of Appeals.

Planning commissioners considered the change at their Aug. 25 meeting.

"I believe that it would have a serious adverse effect on due process rights of local citizens on what is a very im-

portant issue," said Commissioner Lisa Kerr, who made a motion to deny the ordinance change.

"I think the whole community should be more involved in that decision and you're eliminating one of the steps," Commissioner Robin Risley said.

During public testimony, resident and City Council candidate Herb Florer said the consequences of the proposed change are uncertain and could "remove local avenues for hearings and appeals."

"Without full knowledge of the potential ramifications of the change, we feel that this is unnecessary," Florer said.

"I think there's some value in streamlining and simplifying this process," Barnes said at the meeting.

Short-term rentals are more similar to business licenses than planning or zoning decisions, he said.

The Cannon Beach Planning Commission voted to keep short-term rental regulations in the zoning ordinance. The council could reject the recommendation.

The City Council will likely hold a work session in October to discuss more substantive changes to the city's short-term rental program.

Sewer smoke-testing ahead

The City of Cannon Beach has contracted with Civil West Engineering Services to perform smoke testing of the sewer lines. Smoke testing is scheduled to occur from Sept. 14 through Sept. 16.

Smoke testing is a way to identify system leaks and locations where unwanted storm water is entering the sewer lines.

During testing, residents may notice smoke entering the house through faulty or

improper traps and drains. To minimize the smoke entering your house, pour water into all drains prior to the testing. The smoke is non-toxic, non-staining, non-flammable and is harmless to people, animals, and plants.

If you notice smoke in your house or on your property please report it immediately to the personnel conducting the test or call the City of Cannon Beach Public Works Department at 503-436-8068 or 503-0436-8048.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Aerial view of 532 N. Laurel St. in Cannon Beach.

Nicholson gets green light

Nicholson from Page 1A

Harrison and others argued that the final plan was incomplete and failed to "indicate fully the ultimate operation and appearance of the development," including what the constructed homes would look like, the final opinion stated.

The city's lawyers and Nicholson described the detailed building plan, grading plan and landscaping measures.

Petitioners also unsuccessfully argued the City Council lacked jurisdiction to make a final decision on Nicholson's application, since the Planning Commission denied the application.

The appeals board affirmed the council had authority to make a final decision after holding a hearing on the application.

The .57-acre property where Nicholson intends to rebuild the existing house and construct new homes, located at 532 N. Laurel St., has been for sale since April.

Nicholson, who said he agreed to about 18 different conditions during the approval process, plans to build the driveway soon, then rebuild the old home. The timeline is uncertain due to costs from lawsuits by the Friends of Cannon Beach against the city, he said.

Gallery gets additional space

Art Exhibit from Page 1A

natural world and personality — one piece by Jacqueline Hurlbert is titled "Keeping Her Mischief in Check." The works also include figures of humans, animals and mythical creatures.

Half of the artists are based in Oregon, and others hail from Washington and California.

The exhibit will be on display until Oct. 16.

Temporary new space

Cannon Beach Gallery will also be temporarily expanding, using an additional space in Sandpiper Square for education, workshops and additional displays during October through December.

"The space will give us an education area, studio

and workshop space and develop what we've tried to do in the gallery but haven't had space for," Brumfield said. "It's exciting."

The arts association will organize a series of talks that will take place in the annex, which could be available for other arts-focused events.

"We want to have it as a vibrant, active space," Brumfield said. "If anyone needs to have a space for a workshop or demonstration, that would be the kind of extra activity we would like to see there."

Later this fall, the space will host numerous workshops aimed at helping artists share their experience in areas such as printmaking, photography, gallery representation, the arts market, art appraisal and more.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Monday, Sept. 12
Cannon Beach Rural Fire Protection District, 6 p.m., Fire-Rescue Main Station, 188 Sunset Ave.

Tuesday, Sept. 13
Cannon Beach City Council, 5:30 p.m., work session, City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.

Thursday, Sept. 15
Cannon Beach Parks Committee, 9 a.m., 163 E. Gower St.

Cannon Beach Design Review Board, 6 p.m., City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.

Monday, Sept. 19
Ecola Creek Watershed Council, 4:30 p.m., City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.

Tuesday, Sept. 20
Cannon Beach Public Works Committee, 9 a.m., City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.

Thursday, Sept. 22
Cannon Beach Planning Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.

Friday, Sept. 30
Cannon Beach Emergency Preparedness Committee, 10 a.m., City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.

Tuesday, Oct. 4
Cannon Beach City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.

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