

Steidel, Risley plan to run for Cannon Beach posts

By Brenna Visser
Cannon Beach Gazette



Robin Risley

Longtime resident and real estate agent Robin Risley has announced her intention to run for the Cannon Beach City Council.

Risley intends to vie for the seat held by City Councilor George Vetter, who announced earlier this year he will not seek re-election.

Mayor Sam Steidel also announced his re-election campaign at the Tuesday, July 3, City Council meeting.

Over the course of three decades, Risley has served on several boards and committees, including the Cannon Beach and Clatsop County planning commissions, the Oregon State Parks and Recreation Commission and Cannon Beach Chamber of Commerce board. She was also appointed the president of the Clatsop

Association of Realtors last year.

Her decision is largely driven by timing, as she will be ending terms as a planning commissioner and chamber board member this year.

"I love Cannon Beach, and I want to be a part of the decision-making," Risley said.

If elected, Risley would work on finding solutions for the Cannon Beach Elementary School property, rebuilding City Hall and other capital projects on the city's plate. Priorities for Risley are bolstering the arts, as well as preserving the character of

Cannon Beach for both full-time residents and tourists.

"Keeping the culture of the community I think is a high priority," Risley said.

Steidel, elected in 2014, wants to run again to keep working on "unfinished business." He also said he "didn't get a sense of someone else stepping up."

"It would be nice to have some kind of a horse race, though," he said.

Many of the priorities Steidel held in his last campaign remain the same, including purchasing the Cannon

Beach Elementary School site, developing the 55-acre South Wind property and building affordable housing.

Most of these issues have been stalled during his first term, but Steidel hopes a fresh staff at City Hall and the benefit of council continuity will lead to progress.

"You have to keep discussions going to get to our goals," he said.

There are three council positions on the ballot in November, including Steidel's seat. City Councilor Mike Benefield has not indicated whether he plans to run again.

Officials plan to reinstate testing of water outfalls

Water from Page 1A

The cause for the spike is unknown. The city is in contact with the state Department of Environmental Quality and is conducting additional in-house tests to identify the problem, City Manager Bruce St. Denis said.

"This has been an ongoing situation that has resulted in extensive testing (including DNA testing) and research in the past," St. Denis wrote in an email. "Numerous projects have been undertaken to address isolated contributing sources but the overall situation keeps reoccurring. This is common for municipal beach outfalls."

In response, the city plans to reinstate routine testing of all outfalls, including testing locations further upstream of the outfalls than have been done in the past to try to drill down on where contamination is being picked up, St. Denis said. The city will also be scheduling tests the day before predicted rainfall and day after since spikes seem to occur near large rain events. DEQ has agreed to review the data after it has been collected, St. Denis said.

Cannon Beach has a history of high bacteria test results, especially after rain washes waterways out and during the height of tourism season when public infrastructure is heavily used. In July 2015, a sewage leak led to a spike in bacteria readings in the Ecola Creek watershed.

In general, sources of contamination to surface waters include wastewater treatment plants, septic systems, domestic and wild animal manure, and storm runoff, according



BRENNA VISSER/CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

Beachgoers cross a bridge over the Ecola Court outfall in Cannon Beach. Recent samples shows bacteria levels higher than state standards at this location.

to the EPA. Ingesting bacteria contaminated water can result in illness, according to the Oregon Health Authority.

While the federal BEACH Act allows the monitoring program to issue health advisories for readings that exceed the limit in marine waters, there is no equivalent requirement for freshwater sources.

Mike Manzulli, of the Ecola Creek Watershed Council, said the process is "flawed" and that the state should remedy the way findings are noticed.

"The streams from these outfalls are where the children on the beach play and where the dogs drink. Chil-

dren have most likely gotten sick from these waters in the past and will continue to until the problem is remedied," Manzulli wrote in an email. "Tourists don't know their children and pets are playing in contaminated water. Until the source of contamination is fixed, families visiting our beach deserve a proper warning to avoid this water."

St. Denis said the city is working with the Department of Environmental Quality for guidance on proper signage to advise beach goers.

"This is a very complicated issue and is a top priority for staff at this time," St. Denis said.

City Council seeks a focus on arts

Tourism from Page 1A

The controversy points to a larger disagreement within the city and the commission about the evolving purpose of the grant money.

Since 2008, the Tourism and Arts Commission has been charged with reviewing grant applications and regulating the distribution of the Tourism and Arts Fund, which was established with an increase in the lodging tax. Local nonprofits are to use the money to promote tourism activities that encourage people to rent rooms in Cannon Beach, with an extra emphasis on supporting the arts.

But some grant applicants have shifted away from this focus, with recent awards going to support new events like the Fat Bike Festival and promotional videos for the Cannon Beach Chamber of Commerce.

"The whole reason this started was to focus on the arts," said City Councilor Nancy McCarthy, who voted with Benefield and City Councilor Brandon Ogilvie against the money for bike trails. Mayor Sam Steidel and City Councilor George Vetter voted to defer to the commission.

The Tourism and Arts Commission itself was split when evaluating the request from the trail alliance.

Commissioners in favor saw the project as a year-round



CLATSOP COUNTY

Klootch Creek County Park off U.S. Highway 26.

benefit to the tourism industry, which is trying to attract more visitors with interests in outdoor sports.

"It's an investment in the future. I liken it to surfing. Twenty years ago, you just saw a few surfboards on cars. Now they are everywhere, and we have multiple surf shops to support it," Commissioner Greg Swedenborg said. "That's where biking is going."

Some voted against the grant request after former City Attorney Tammy Herdener raised legal questions about whether lodging tax dollars, which come with restrictions, could be used to finance the trail project.

There was debate about whether the trail system qualified as a tourism facility, which is defined by the state as "real property that has a useful

life of 10 or more years" and substantially supports tourism. The trail alliance and the private landowner have a five-year agreement, which could raise questions, Herdener said.

Others took issue with the fact that the project had no ties with the arts and was not based in Cannon Beach.

While Weintraub recognizes the arts emphasis of the grant money, he said nothing in the ordinance precludes other tourism-based proposals from being considered. He pointed to the Fat Bike Festival he pitched last year, which was also met with skepticism, but turned out to be successful when it debuted in April.

"This is a Tourism and Arts Fund, and the city's directive is to give preference to arts," Weintraub said. "But preference doesn't mean to exclude."

Weintraub said he personally is in favor of expanding arts funding in Cannon Beach, but believes the city also needs to find ways to fund opportunities for "a broad array of visitor attractions."

The bike trail system near Klootch Creek will still be built, Weintraub said, but perhaps not as quickly because of the loss of the grant money.

If the city is not going to fund the trail project, then Weintraub wants city councilors to use the \$12,143 to improve trails and walkways in town.

CANNON BEACH'S BEST SELECTION OF OREGON AND WASHINGTON WINE!

Shack Hours
Sunday - Thursday
11am to 5pm
Friday & Saturday
11am to 5:30pm

Tasting Room Hours
Daily • 1 to 5pm

UPCOMING TASTINGS

July 14 • Spindrift Cellars
July 21 • Brandborg Wines
July 28 • Angel Vine
August 4 • Owen Roe

"Best Wine Shop"
- 2016 & 2018 Reader's Choice Award

124 N. HEMLOCK, CANNON BEACH - 503.436.1100 - WWW.THEWINESSHACK.WINE

Join this movement

Physical activity is a proven path to a happier, healthier life.

Creating health together.

colpachealth.org
@columbiapacificco

Columbia Pacific CCO
A CareOregon Company

Windermere
REAL ESTATE
WINDERMERE REALTY TRUST
LUXURY PORTFOLIO
INTERNATIONAL

Five out of the top Ten Brokers in Sales volume in the Clatsop Multiple Listing Service in 2017 were Windermere Brokers.
Put Windermere to work for you.

NEW LISTING	NEW LISTING	NEW PRICE
<p>CHARMING GEARHART COTTAGE 456 "D" St., Gearhart A treasured retreat is found! This gorgeous 3-bedroom home is just 2 blocks from the beach. Top quality throughout with a stunning fenced backyard offering privacy & peaceful serenity for outdoor living. CMLS#18-951 \$679,500 Craig Weston 503-738-2838 Dana Weston 503-738-2839</p>	<p>LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION! 124 E Madison St., Cannon Beach One block to the beach and a short walk to town. One story floor plan with secondary bedrooms divided from the master suite. Oversized corner lot with abundant parking and attached sheds. Rental history for vacation tenants to help pay for your beach house! Call Talking at 1-800-784-9541 ext. 421 CMLS#18-900 \$575,000 Jackie Weber 503-440-2331</p>	<p>CLASSIC ENGLISH CRAFTSMAN 1481 S Prom, Seaside Extraordinary remodel of vintage 1928 home located on Seaside's Prom. Impeccable attention to detail of owner's design highlights this era. CMLS#17-881 \$2,199,000 Christy Chaloux Coulombe 503-724-2400 Pam Ackley 503-717-3796</p>
NEW PRICE	NEW LISTING	NEW PRICE
<p>OCEAN FRONT, OCEAN VIEW 1216 S Pacific, Cannon Beach Midtown location, this stylish, modern, versatile 7 year old large home or duplex has 2 kitchens, 2 great rooms, 6 bd 4 bath, 2 car garage, located close to everything midtown & downtown. CMLS#18-320 \$1,799,000 Karen Meili 503-440-5806</p>	<p>ADORABLE COTTAGE! 240 S. Ave., Seaside Perfectly located 2 blocks to the beach in SW Seaside. This cozy 2 bd, 1.5 bath cottage has an additional sleeping room and the garage has been converted into a game room. Low maintenance landscape and a fenced back yard. Move in ready, partially furnished. It is a vacation rental. CMLS#18-933 \$324,500 Tina Chapman 503-440-9957</p>	<p>GO BIG AND BE HOME! 547 Antler Rd., Cannon Beach This massive home is supremely flexible. You can enjoy it as a single dwelling or share it as two units (up/downstairs) without compromise, because each bedroom has its own bath and both levels have covered porches and views of the mountains and ocean. CMLS#18-463 \$799,000 Kate Merrell 503-739-2324</p>
NEW PRICE	NEW LISTING	NEW LISTING
<p>SIMPLY SURPRISING! 1740 View Point Ter., Cannon Beach Light, bright and airy with exterior log look. Wall wall of ocean view. Sits high above tsunami zone, yet easy beach access just across the street. FOR DETAILS CALL 1-800-784-9541 x876. CMLS#18-702 \$649,000 Jackie Weber 503-440-2331</p>	<p>OCEAN & FOREST RETREAT 79209 Ray Brown Rd., Arch Cape From the moment you enter, you are surrounded by all of nature's wonders, the hypnotic sea, whispering trees. The sound and fury of civilization vanishes. CMLS#18-464 \$649,500 Kate Merrell 503-739-2324</p>	<p>OCEAN-FRONT BEAUTY 3232 Sunset Blvd., Seaside Own a home others will covet! Amazing sea views as far as the eye can see from every angle, spectacular outdoor space. You must see this home! 3200 Sq Ft. CMLS#18-8 \$1,125,000 Tina Chapman 503-440-9957</p>
NEW LISTING	NEW LISTING	NEW LISTING
<p>OUTSTANDING OCEAN VIEWS! 8770 Tides Trail, Manzanita Pleasant light and airy yet cozy design with central courtyard, fabulous ocean views nearly every room, and 11 foot ceilings. Relaxing elegant setting. Gourmet kitchen, second family room, 1,438sf undeveloped space lowest level. Bedrooms and baths both levels. CALL TALKING AD 1-800-784-9541 x540 CMLS#18-932 \$1,348,000 Jackie Weber 503-440-2331</p>	<p>SUNSET VIEW ESTATES 2186 Skyline Dr., Seaside Quality, custom built Seaside home with river rock fireplace, theater room, upper and lower decks, private treed setting, listen to the rambling creek, all out of the tsunami zone! CMLS#18-922 \$625,000 Barbara Maltman 503-717-2154</p>	<p>LODGES AT CANNON BEACH 132 E Surfcrest #D-2, Cannon Beach Looking for an investment? The Lodges allow nightly rentals with excellent management by the Inn at Cannon Beach. Fully furnished. CMLS#17-1686 \$579,000 Karen Meili 503-440-5806 Steve Crane 503-440-6310</p>

CANNON BEACH OFFICE
255 N. Hemlock, Ste. B1 • Cannon Beach, OR 97110
800/676-1176 • 503/436-1027
cannonbeach.withwre.com

GEARHART OFFICE
588 Pacific Way • Gearhart, OR 97138
800/275-7773 • 503/738-8522
gearhart.withwre.com

Serving the Entire North Oregon Coast