

Councilors consider city statutes

By CARA MICO
For Cannon Beach Gazette

Public Works Director Karen LaBonte and Community Development Director Jeff Adams presented the City Council with updated street, tree and park ordinances for consideration at the March 12 City Council work session.

Proposed changes to the street ordinance were minimal and had previously been brought forward but not adopted by the council. Councilor Nancy McCarthy requested the only change asking that clarifying language regarding the cost threshold for street paving be added.

Labonte also brought forward a potential new parks code which was updated by the Parks Committee at their Oct. 18, 2018, meeting. The city parks code has not been updated since 2005 and many of the ordinances are outdated.

McCarthy and councilor Mike Benefield requested that clarifying language be added regarding the allowance of temporary 10-foot-by-10-foot open-sided canopies in the parks, suggesting including definitions of temporary and open-sided.



Karen La Bonte

Councilor Robin Risley said that she was “worried about tents in general.”

LaBonte will take the parks code back to the committee for clarification.

Adams presented an updated tree removal ordinance to the council for consideration. The code was updated to include definitions for terms like “diameter at breast height” and “tree protection zone,” as well as a diagram to understand these new terms.

Certain activities such as interior redesign or siding replacement won’t be impacted by this ordinance update, but new construction and tree removal of any tree greater than six inches in diameter will now require

a site plan which includes all trees to be removed and all trees that may be impacted, including those on adjoining properties.

The previous ordinance also allowed property owners to remove dead or dying trees at the discretion of the director of community development. The new ordinance requires the additional input of a certified arborist.

Mayor Sam Steidel requested that the language be modified to clarify that “foreseeable danger” as determined by a certified arborist. Adams will make the changes and return with the updated ordinance at the next council meeting for a public hearing.



The Spruce Street site was considered unsuitable as a potential site for a new city hall.

Funding sought to analyze potential city hall sites

By CARA MICO
For Cannon Beach Gazette

After a series of work sessions, city councilors did their homework and ranked the potential sites for a new City Hall building.

Remaining contenders are properties to the west and east side of the current City Hall lot, followed by city-owned property adjacent to the RV park site east of U.S. Highway 101.

At the Wednesday, March 9, work session, City Manager Bruce St. Denis encouraged the council to allocate funding for further analysis of these sites.

Sites formerly under consideration but no longer considered viable by councilors included the current City Hall and

South Wind east of the highway. Both were considered too expensive to justify developing.

The Spruce Forest Reserve along Ecola Creek was also ruled out as a possible city hall relocation site. While the reserve was considered as a possibility at previous meetings, councilors agreed development of the nature trail would be unlikely to find favor with voters.

St. Denis will ask consultants to gather preliminary information that will allow the council to make more informed decisions before taking the options to the general public. Costs for the study are likely to be under \$10,000, St. Denis said.

“Better to make a smaller investment up front to get information,” he said.



Cannon Beach Chamber of Commerce board president Greg Swedenborg at this year’s chamber awards ceremony.

Chamber of Commerce wants tourists to ‘Love It Like a Local’

By CARA MICO
For Cannon Beach Gazette

“Love It Like a Local” is the theme heard in Cannon Beach, a marketing call unveiled at the chamber’s recent 50th anniversary party in February.

The Cannon Beach Chamber of Commerce presented their work plan at a March City Council work

session. As part of their strategic marketing efforts the chamber identified the area’s strengths and weaknesses so that they could be better prepared to respond to opportunities and threats.

On the top of the list were bad weather and the potential for an economic slowdown. They’re hoping that their new campaign, “Love it Like a Local,” will take root and draw people in despite

these potential deterrents.

Chamber executive director Jim Paino said he is also hoping that by asking people to think like a local they’ll be able to attract more “environmentally conscious tourists.”

Paino wants to market Cannon Beach as a “clean beach” community, with an emphasis on citywide awareness.

“So many people do it already, let’s make it a

‘whole-town thing,’” Paino said.

At a March work session, City Councilor Robin Risley asked the chamber to work with Americans for the Arts when the national organization returns to survey the impact of the arts on Clatsop County.

She emphasized promoting Cannon Beach as an arts community and urged Paino to promote the art trail.

Design Review Board approves two new marijuana shop plans

By CARA MICO
For Cannon Beach Gazette

Plans for two new marijuana shops were approved by the Design Review Board at the March 21 meeting. The most recent design review for the 3115 South Hemlock was denied because of “architectural elements” said City Planner Jeff Adams.

The latest proposal includes minor changes including new windows and a reconfigured parking area.

Vito Cerelli and Vic Barbalato, designers for Limnes Investments, presented the new design to the board, a significant departure from the previous plan. Concerns raised during the first design review were addressed in the latest plans.

Board member Todd Rowley said that the proposed window redesign, considered a minor improvement by city code, was “better than the hodgepodge” current configuration.



File photo

The Limnes property at 3115 South Hemlock in 2018.

The Tolovana site originally proposed a complete redesign of the property including floor to ceiling windows. The second submission to the board was more modest with a simple facade reconfiguration and new windows. Exterior

lighting would be down facing and dim enough to meet the dark sky ordinance. Glare won’t be visible from neighboring properties either.

A representative of Escape Lodging, B.J. Quick, was concerned with

the traffic pattern from the new site, if the parking lot were ever full cars would have to reverse out onto Hemlock, which he felt was potentially a pedestrian hazard.

The design proposal was approved by the board conditional to meeting sidewalk standards should street improvements require them.

The second dispensary design review was also approved. Tolovana Architect Jay Orloff presented design plans for the proposed dispensary on 279 North Hemlock.

The proposal for the property, owned in part by

Jeffrey Nicholson, met the minimum standards in the ordinance.

The most significant change?

The building will be moved towards Hemlock to make room for an addition on the east side of the lot. The application’s approval was conditional upon meeting either the standards for off-street parking and planting additional trees if future development doesn’t occur.

And the big pine tree will stay.

Board member Dave Doering said “it would be a big improvement” from the building’s current condition.

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