



Seaside approves urban renewal plan

Forestland eliminated from proposal

By R.J. Marx
Seaside Signal

City councilors unanimously adopted the Southeast Seaside Urban Renewal Plan on Monday, with one important change — the elimination of 33 acres of Weyerhaeuser-owned forestland from the 560-acre project.

“We heard concerns about the particular piece of land that is included in the plan that is not in the city property and not in the urban growth boundary,” City Councilor Tita Montero said.

“When all is said and done, I think the right thing to do is diminish the boundaries and reduce the size of the urban renewal district by removing the forestland outside the city limits.”

The Weyerhaeuser property had been considered a way to provide additional infrastructure — water, sewer lines and roads — to the Seaside School District’s new campus, City Manager Mark Winstanley said. “That was the thought behind putting that piece of property in — it gave more options to the agency.”

Revenues fund improvements

Urban renewal is a financing program authorized under state law and implemented locally, allowing the use of property tax revenues from city and regional taxing districts to grow the economy in blighted or underdeveloped areas.

Funding comes through increases in assessed values of local properties.

As new development arrives and existing properties are improved, assessments rise and see property tax increases. Property taxes on the growth in assessed value in the urban renewal area are frozen and increases are allocated to the city’s urban renewal agency and not the taxing districts.

The urban renewal plan sets a limit on the amount of money which can be used to fund projects, with a maximum indebtedness of \$68.5 million. The plan has a duration of 25 years.

City data indicated the prior urban renewal area’s assessed value grew at 5 percent annually from 2008 to 2014, even during the recession, consultant Elaine Howard wrote in a report Monday.

The city’s past urban renewal programs helped provide financing for The Turn-around and Prom, the city’s sewage plant, 12th Avenue improvements and construction of a new library.

The urban renewal district could provide up to \$45 million in funds for improvements to four bridges vulnerable to tsunamis, on Avenue A, G, S and U. Other projects could bring street and infrastructure improvements to the city’s south end, business assistance, property acquisition and workforce housing.

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Some racers walk, don’t run in Hood to Coast Relay

CROSSING THE FINISH LINE

Relay raises \$700,000 for Providence hospitals

By Brenna Visser
Seaside Signal

After two years of cloud cover and windy woes, Seaside welcomed 19,000 runners and walkers from the 36th annual Hood to Coast Relay with a clear and sunny day.

Runners came from all 50 states and 43 countries Saturday to compete in the race that spans from Timberline Lodge to Seaside’s Promenade, covering 199 miles and raising \$700,000 for Providence hospitals, Chief Operating Officer Dan Floyd said.

After the race, thousands celebrated on the beach with beer, pop-up food stands and musical performances from Radical Revolution and the Brian O’Dell Band until the sun set over the horizon.

While Hood to Coast is known for featuring world-class athletes capable of Olympic-style race times, a chunk of the money raised for cancer research comes from groups like “You walkin’ to me?” — one of the 400 race walking teams who participate in the Portland To Coast Walk Relay portion of the event.

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JEFF TER HAR/FOR SEASIDE SIGNAL

A little splash of water needed at Hood to Coast.



Sunny skies provided a backdrop for the 2017 Hood to Coast.

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REBECCA HERREN/FOR SEASIDE SIGNAL

A fan receives her signed copy of “Journey: The Amazing Story of OR-7, the Oregon Wolf that Made History” by author Beckie Elgin at the author reading at the Seaside Public Library.

A love for wolves

Author Beckie Elgin chronicles wolf’s trek across the landscape

By Rebecca Herren
For Seaside Signal

The wolf called OR-7 (aka Journey) is known for his three-year, 4,000-mile trek across Oregon into California to find a mate. Since OR-7 was 10 months old when collared, scientists were able to document his range, and as his popularity grew, people worldwide followed his arduous journey. Medford author Beckie Elgin discussed his journey and her new book “Journey: The Amazing Story of OR-7, the Oregon Wolf that Made History” during her presentation on Aug. 12 at the Seaside Public Library.

Elgin’s interest in wolves began at age 12 in Des Moines, Iowa. Her father was a zoo director there and Elgin helped care for a variety of animals, including wolves.

Her love for wolves never changed; however, life eventually took over. Elgin worked as a nurse and

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Divided council approves resolution

Supporters disappointed by lack of unanimity

By R.J. Marx
Seaside Signal

The City Council endorsed an inclusivity resolution Monday night recognizing the contributions of immigrants, but resistance by two councilors led to an uneasy feeling among some in the Hispanic community.

While a majority supported the resolution in a 5-2 vote, City Councilor Seth Morrissey said it was ambiguous and intentionally vague.

Councilor Randy Frank called it political and unnecessary.

“I don’t understand why we have a resolution for this,” Frank said. “I’ve lived here 52 years. I went to school here. I don’t know of anybody being excluded on any basis. ... I do know these inclusivity movements are part of a political alignment and this is what I object to.”

Minerva Moulin, of La Voz de la Comunidad, an advisory committee to the Lower Columbia Hispanic Council, said she was happy Seaside passed the inclusivity resolution, but would have been happier had

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