

District gives path to reinstatement

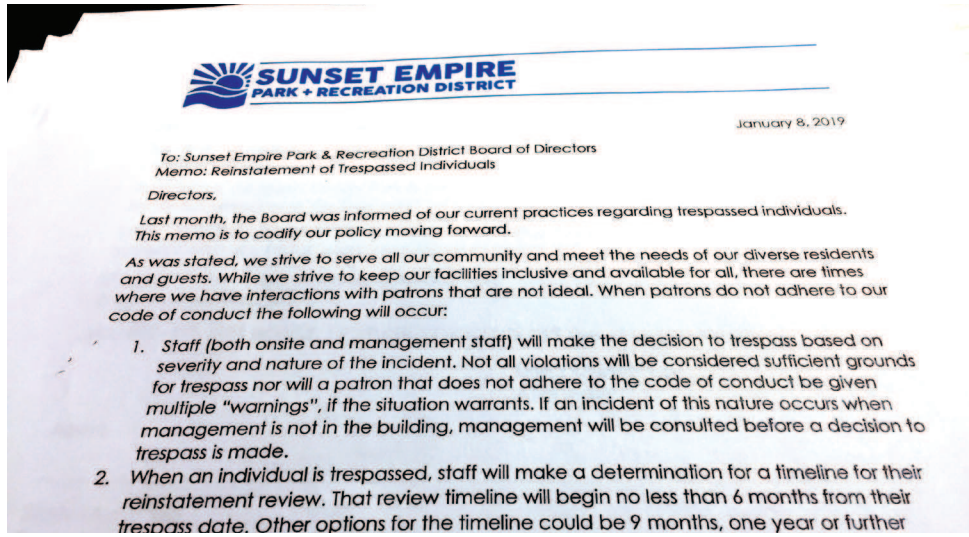
By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

The Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District can taketh away, and it can giveth.

The district adopted policies at their Jan. 15 meeting to determine when a resident or guest may be trespassed from district facilities — and how they can be reinstated. The policy aims to provide guidelines for district staff when patrons violate the district's code of conduct.

"There have been times when a patron has lived up to our standards according to our code of conduct," the district's executive director Skyler Archibald said. "Those haven't been that frequent, but it has happened and it may continue."

According to the new policy, submitted by the dis-



The new Sunset Park and Recreation Department policy sets trespassing guidelines.

trict's executive director Skyler Archibald, staff will make the decision to trespass an individual based on the severity and nature of the incident.

After being trespassed, an individual may initiate

a review. "Trespassed individuals will be given every opportunity to demonstrate remorse and contrition for the incident that occurred," according to the policy document.

To be reinstated, patrons

have the option to initiate a review. "This will give us support as these individuals seek to come back," Archibald said.

Review will not begin until at least six months after the trespass date.

Alan Evans steps down at SEPRD

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

As his last move as director, Evans asked the board to initiate a search for a replacement. He also volunteered to participate in candidate interviews.



Alan Evans

Board president Alan Evans stepped down as president of the Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District at the board's January.

Evans, who served on the board for three years, moved out of the district and is ineligible to serve.

"Tonight, with a heavy heart, I have to resign my position as board president for Sunset Empire Park and Recreation," Evans said. "I do that with a heavy heart because I love this, I love what we do and what we stand for, but ethically, I have to do what is best to represent myself and my family."

District residents are encouraged to apply for consideration to fill Evans' term, executive director Skyler Archibald, said. That term is slated to end on June 30. However, the selected replacement would have the opportunity to run for re-election in the spring general election.

Interested district residents may contact Archibald at sarchibald@sunsetempire.com.

Gearhart Fire: Three possible locations, but which one will win public favor?

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With an elevation of almost 65 feet, Highpoint Station offers the greatest height. But the land is not owned by the city, and construction costs of between \$6 million and \$9 million would need to be supplemented by costs of a land purchase, should the property's owners choose to negotiate.

The current firehouse site stands at 25 feet at the building site, and would likely be inundated in a tsunami.

Development of the property could require added costs to replace fill, adding to a projected \$6 million to \$8 million cost at that location. Should that site be chosen, the department would need to find housing in a temporary location, possibly a pole



Jeff Ter Har/For Seaside Signal

City administrator Chad Sweet addresses audience members at the Gearhart firehouse town hall.

barn, City Administrator Chad Sweet said. "This is definitely one of the more expensive places to do what we need to do."

Gearhart Park Station, at the location of the Lesley Miller Dunes Meadow Park

at the corner of Pacific Way and North Cottage.

The park offers 50 feet of elevation and the land could be acquired from the county at minimal cost. The property comes with stable, packed sand with min-

imum prep work required. Cost for a 13,000 square foot single level building on the site could be between \$5 million and \$7 million.

The cost on a bond for \$1,000 of home value would be between be about

\$308 per year for a home valued at \$400,000.

Transitioning a portion of the park — about 3/10 of an acre — for a public safety facility faced objections from the audience, some of whom urged the city to maintain the site as intended by Lesley Miller, who transferred the land to Gearhart in 1947 to be used as a municipal park.

Anita Barbey said she recognized the need to upgrade the station. "But she (Miller) wanted this site to be available to the public no matter where people lived, to come here and enjoy the ocean."

Architect Stuart Emmons said a fire station in the park is a "waste of taxpayer money" and will only work for a limited portion of disaster scenarios.

"I believe that the Lesley

Miller Dune Meadow Park is a key part of Gearhart and losing it would be a travesty," Emmons said.

Brown concluded the meeting asking for input on each of the three sites, with questionnaires asking public to rank each location in preference. "These are not final designs that we showed you tonight," he said. "These are just idea and concepts. They can or will be altered or changed. We want to know not just what you don't like — but what you do like."

The purpose of the process, Brown said, is to spending the next three months collecting public input. "I want everyone to tell me what location they like, which one they don't like, and I want specific feedback how we can make any of these locations better or designs better."

Chamber: Chamber celebrates businesses

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Volunteerism honored

Seaside's chamber of commerce recognizes businesses throughout the region — from Cannon Beach to Astoria — but no honor more vaunted than the Byron Meek Award, given to the area's top volunteer.

This award is presented to people who have dedicated their time and energy to the city, named after the achievements of Meek, who epitomized the city's community's volunteer spirit. The honor was voted upon by former award winners. The award was first delivered in 2001 to Meek; Nancy McCune won the award in 2017.

McCune remembered Meek as dedicating himself to the well-being of the community and its children, developing a program for fifth-graders to commit to healthy living. "It's great to see those kids who throughout the years, remember the values Byron taught them."

This year's recipient was Ruth Swenson, owner of the Hillcrest Inn & Hillcrest House, also named runner-up as volunteer of the year. "I've run into her at the wine walk, at beach cleanup — almost every activity

we have. Halloween Happenings, Parade of Lights," McCune said in presenting the Byron award. "She is a top-notch manager, always there, always helpful, making sure that every guest is welcome to Seaside."

Times Theatre owners Mark and Marci Utti, newly reopened after 30 years of darkness, were also among winners honored for their positive impact on the community.

Randy Anderson, owner of Anderson Painting, won recognition for his "excellence of service for our community," an honor for his efforts in bringing beach wheelchairs to Sea-

side. Anderson donated two chairs to the city and helped spark a program to bring access to the beach to those who might otherwise be denied. The program's success inspired Gearhart to adopt a similar program.

Anderson has also been a strong supporter of the Bob Chisholm Community Center, donating his time and talents to paint the center for its refresh.

Other big winners included Westport Winery, the rising star/new business award winner, and Misty Mills winning the chamber's volunteer of the year award.

Doug and Cheryl Barker won the chamber's legacy award for their longtime service to the community.

Owen said the chamber's mission is to act as a catalyst in the community. "We're looking to what we can do to move business forward, solve problems, and that future leadership," he said.

He said the chamber's role is to act as a problem solver. "That's what we're here for. We may not be able to help you solve that problem, but we can help you connect with whoever we can."

Issues ahead include employee retention, and addressing workforce housing, wages and transportation access. "We're working closely with the college to bringing more skilled workforce there."

The wide range of chamber members was apparent, the Cannon Beach Chamber of Commerce's Executive Director James Paino and Clatsop County's Small Business Development Center's Kevin Leahy among the notables in attendance.

The chamber's members are based throughout the county, Owen said. "We should really be called the 'Seaside area' chamber of commerce," he said.



R.J. Marx/Seaside Signal

Intersection of Avenue N, near the site of a proposed Grocery Outlet.

Grocery Outlet: Planning Commission to hear round 2

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Attorney Karl Anuta, on behalf of Protect Pacific Northwest, an organization founded in 2017 to protect natural resources and fight urban sprawl, said the developer was attempting to foist impacts of the project "off onto the community."

The conditions imposed by the Planning Commission are "very reasonable, if not perhaps a little too lenient considering the scope of the expected impacts from this development," Anuta said.

"The problem is, the developer is asking you, or the state taxpayers — somebody else other than them

— to shoulder the cost of increase in traffic. ... That doesn't make any sense."

Anuta suggested delaying approval until road funding becomes available. "If you want to build a store, mitigate the impacts."

Council members had the option of accepting the Planning Commission's recommendations, reject them, or send the application back for further review.

Steve Wright asked for testimony from ODOT at the Planning Commission level before issuing a council decision. "My biggest concern is not necessarily traffic for residents, it's traffic for visitors. At some

point they'll decide we'll go someplace where the traffic is not as bad."

Mayor Jay Barber called it a "difficult issue," and asked the Planning Commission to "work a little more to come up with a solution."

The record will be reviewed by the Planning Commission, limited to discussion of the turn lane. "We ask that it be laser-focused on the proportionality of the impacts," Dover said, a focus agreed to and voted unanimously upon by the council.

"We want some finality, no doubt about it," Dover said after the meeting.

As for a solution, "The city has really proposed nothing, so we have another chance to plead our case," Dover added. "It's just trying to figure out what will satisfy the Planning Commission and the City Council."

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