



Seaside City Council meeting on March 23.

Photos by R.J. Marx

Parking amendment sent back to planners

Ordinance was to reduce hurdles for workforce housing

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

Concerns about the loss of already limited parking downtown derailed an ordinance intended to address Seaside's lack of affordable housing.

The ordinance would have reduced parking requirements for apartments citywide, and lifted limits for residential units over commercial downtown businesses.

In public comment at a City Council meeting last week, Seaside Brewing Co. owner Jimmy Griffin said the ordinance provided no mechanism to ensure downtown residential buildings would be affordable or workforce housing.

Parking could be further strained, he said.

"What's going to happen is people who normally park on the streets to go to our businesses are going to be shoved into the parking lots, because the streets are going to be full of residents and their cars," Griffin said. "It's going to create pressure driving people into these other parking lots that are already overwhelmed."



Jimmy Griffin, of Seaside Brewing Co., asks City Council to reconsider changes in downtown parking requirements for residential-over-commercial development.

There is already a parking shortage at his building at Broadway and U.S. Highway 101, he said.

"My only option is to tow people, which creates massive amounts of bad blood," Griffin said. "This is just going to exacerbate the problem that already exists. I have a parking problem every day. I don't want to see it get worse."

City Councilor Tita Montero shared Griffin's concerns.

"Once developers are allowed to develop studio or one-bedroom apartments with little or no parking space requirements, we will never be able to change requirements when we realize the unintended consequences," Montero said.

The city's current ordinance requires two parking spaces per dwelling unit for all types of apartments, multifamily dwellings and conventional detached dwellings.

Along with eliminating the parking required for small residential dwellings downtown, the new ordinance would have brought parking requirements in Seaside in line with other Clatsop County communities, reducing requirements to one parking space for a studio apartment, 1.25 spaces for a one-bedroom and 1.5 parking spaces for a two-bedroom apartment.

The ordinance was intended to reduce regulatory hurdles associated with developing workforce rental housing and promote more efficient use of land within the city.

While city councilors rejected sections in the ordinance related to residential-over-commercial downtown housing, they hope to keep parts of the ordinance to reduce off-street parking requirements for apartments throughout the city.

"I think staff can bring you back an ordinance that would just take care of that part," City Planner Kevin Cupples said. "You're going to be starting over at square one with the first reading, and bring the other item to the Planning Commission with joint review of counsel."

Post office adjusts to life during pandemic

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

Stay 6 feet away from others. Wait outside when necessary.

People are getting the message about coronavirus precautions, said Karynn Kozij, an employee at the post office in Gearhart. "They are noting the 6-foot indicator markers, they're taking their turns one at a time in the office, for the most part. I think it's clicked in."

Postmaster Anthony Sims said at the post office in Seaside delivery hours are normal and "people still come in to mail their bills and to pick up their packages."

They've been "pretty good about spreading out."

He advised customers to be patient, wait at the edge of the carpet or outside, maintain a distance from others and be respectful to employees.

For customers, it's better to keep regular hours where visits can be spread throughout the day.

Sims said in Seaside, carriers and clerks are given daily updates on the coronavirus and offered Purell, wipes and personal protective equipment.

A contractor cleans the office daily, spraying everything down and disinfecting it, Sims said. "That's the extra vigilant part."

Kozij, usually accompanied by a second employee, is working alone in the office at 546 Pacific Way.

While counter traffic has declined, packages are coming in to "a lot of names and addresses that I've never seen in this office before," Kozij said. "I have at least a dozen packages I'm holding for people to pick up."

"Since Tuesday I've been working the job alone to keep limitations on people in the office," she said. "I can do it alone because the counter service has dropped off quite a bit. Right now the volume has dropped off. I think people are feeling it in their pocketbooks as well."

Despite talk of limiting service, Kozij said shorter



Karynn Kozij of the Gearhart Post Office.

R.J. Marx



Outside the Seaside Post Office, March 27.

OBITUARIES

Lynn Alice Horton-Rislow

Astoria and Gresham
Oct. 13, 1940 — Jan. 17, 2020

Lynn Alice Horton-Rislow, aka Lynn Ann Houck, was born Oct. 13, 1940, the first of 10 children of Lynn Ambrose and Cecelia Houck of Bend, Oregon.

She died Jan. 17, 2020, in the arms of her daughter, Kristin and husband, Kenneth, from complications of initial chemotherapy for metastatic colon cancer, at Adventist Medical Center in Portland.

She was preceded in death by her father, Lynn; brother, Christopher (Kit) Houck, and granddaughter Chelsea (Bitsy) Smith. Sadly, Lynn's mom, Cecelia, passed away shortly after her at the age of 98 in their Gresham home a few days after her death.

Lynn is survived by her husband, Kenneth; her sister, Karen Houck-Carpenter of Albany, Oregon; brother Bruce Houck of Spokane, Washington; brother Lance Houck of Gresham, Oregon; brother Paul Houck of Troutdale, Oregon; sister Laurie Houck-Johnson of Atlanta, Georgia; brother Matthew Houck of Gresham, Oregon; and brother Joseph Houck of Portland, Oregon.

She is also survived by her children, Charles A. Smith of Portland, Oregon, Teresa Lynn Gathman of Minot, North Dakota, Michael R. Smith of Damascus, Oregon, and triplets Kristin Kathleen Follitt of Beaverton, Oregon, Karl A. Smith of Ritzville, Washington, and Kory S. Smith of Moses Lake, Washington.

Lynn married Albert Smith of Corbett, Oregon circa 1960. The couple divorced circa 1980.

She married her lifelong best friend, Kenneth H. Rislow of Newark, New Jersey, in 2003. At that time, she took her beloved grandmother's name of Alice Horton to honor this centenarian Oregon pioneer of Horton, Oregon.

Lynn earned her reputation as a tough, wonderful and compassionate mother of six, grandmother of 15 and great-grandmother of 13. She reared her children and foster children on the family's Corbett farm. All have met success as adults in their own right.

Gifted with Oregon

vision, Lynn, herself, can be pictured by three words: intellect, compassion and integrity, bonded to a core of true grit.

Lynn attended St. Francis Elementary School of Bend, and Corbett Elementary and High schools. She was president of the National Honor Society and valedictorian of her Class of 1958. She briefly attended the University of Oregon and Portland State University.

In the late 1960s, Lynn began her career in social service as a specialized foster parent. She advanced to case aide, then to child welfare caseworker, eventually culminating into entrepreneur and program director of the Rainbow Adult Living Facility. She expanded the agency from an initial small group home of five developmentally delayed adults into a consortium of apartment projects providing individual apartment housing and support services for more than 30 adults.

She went on to serve as residential director of Coast Rehabilitation Services of Astoria, Oregon, then as assistant Clatsop County Veterans Service officer, and then as claims assistant at the Bankruptcy Trustee's Office of Portland. Finally, for her last decade, Lynn became entrepreneur and proprietor of NW Creations and Collectibles of Gresham, a crafters' mall for local gifted artisans, where she developed a legion of devoted friends and followers.

Capping her last decade, Lynn became primary care provider 24/7 for her beloved mother, Cecelia, until her diagnosis and hospitalization for terminal colon cancer in mid-November 2019.

Lynn's Holy Rosary Recitation and Memorial Mass, officiated by Father Julio Torres, were held at St. Henry's Catholic Church in Gresham on Jan. 24, 2020.

Lynn will be forever missed by all who knew and loved her.

Her inurnment ceremony for columbarium placement is scheduled for Willamette National Cemetery on Monday, Aug. 3, 2020, at 2 p.m. All are invited to attend.



Lynn Alice Horton-Rislow

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