

Posalski offers farewell to Seaside Planning Commission

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

When David Posalski won election to Seaside City Council’s Ward 4 seat, he ended his term on the Planning Commission, a role he has been serving for the past three years.

“I’d like to thank everybody for the wonderful time working together,

all the support and camaraderie,” Posalski said at last Tuesday’s meeting. “I think we worked really well together.”

Posalski moved to Seaside in 2010. The owner of five local businesses, he ran on a record of experience on the Seaside Chamber of Commerce board, Seaside Transportation Commission and three years on the Planning Commission, includ-

ing time as vice chairman.

“There’s been some easy decisions and some contentious issues that we’ve worked through,” Posalski said. “I look forward to still working with you and seeing you all, just from a different capacity.”

Kevin Cupples, the city’s planning director, thanked Posalski for his service to the commission and the community.

“It’s going to continue, but now your mission as an outgoing planning commissioner is to try and make sure that you find at least three people who volunteer to apply to be planning commissioners,” Cupples said. “In that way, you won’t be leaving a void.”

Along with Posalski, Bill Carpenter left the commission this year, leaving two vacancies to be filled.

Other commission members include Teri Carpenter, chairman Chris Hoth, Robin Montero, Lou Neubecker and Jon Wickersham. Montero was named interim vice chairman until officer reappointments in January.

David Posalski thanks Planning Commission members at last Tuesday’s meeting.



Councilor aims to prevent public drunkenness in Gearhart

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

Wording in the commercial zoning amendment permitting to-go alcohol sales at neighborhood cafes delayed approval of a long-discussed update to Gearhart’s downtown zoning code.

“I don’t want my children to see people staggering out of

a bar,” City Councilor Kerry Smith said at last Wednesday’s City Council meeting..

Smith was referring to language in the amendments that would allow take-out alcohol sales by neighborhood cafes, the product of new language designed to clean up outdated code language, make downtown commercial zoning less restrictive and encourage new businesses.

“Neighborhood cafes are defined as a business devoted primarily to the serving of prepared food where food is consumed while customers are seated at tables and having no more than 1,300 square feet of eating area,” the amendment states. “Food and beverage may also be sold for takeout. Service may include alcohol sales on premise or to-go, where licensed by

OLCC (Oregon Liquor Control Commission).”

If the amendments are approved as written, Gearhart could open the door for takeout alcohol sales and subsequent public displays of drunkenness, Smith said.

“I don’t want that for Gearhart. If I have a legacy here, I don’t want that to be part of what I leave behind,” he said.

If adopted, the amendments could bring outdoor and sidewalk seating to neighborhood markets and limit chain or formula use businesses with four or more locations.

The amendments would eliminate restrictions that require neighborhood cafes to be open 11 months a year and lift the 10 p.m. closing time.

City councilors voted to table the ordinance for one month while staff edits language.

As that portion of the code heads to review, Traci Williams, owner the Sweet Shop, asked for further review of the amendments overall.

“I wish you guys would just push pause and get it right,” Williams said.

Despite assurances, school access remains concern for city

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

Playground equipment has been moved to Pacific Ridge Elementary School on Spruce Drive, given away or dismantled. The baseball backstop and basketball court is also gone at Gearhart Elementary School.

The moves caused concern among Gearhart city officials.

“Initially what we thought we would do is ensure we could maintain those play areas,” City Administrator Chad Sweet said. “I discussed that with our insurance company and they said we would be OK to do that. The city is kind of at a loss right now.”

Meanwhile, co-owner Robert Morey, of Scofi Gearhart LLC, reaffirmed his commitment to keeping large portions of the site accessible to the public, provided the area is maintained, insured and monitored by the city.

Scofi Gearhart purchased the property in November for \$500,000, which included a \$100,000 educational grant to the seller in addition to the \$400,000 purchase price.

After meeting with Mayor Paulina Cockrum and Sweet last month, Morey said he will provide parking and temporary access from both the north and south to the more than 3-acre eastern portion of the 8.5-acre site. The field has historically been available as play fields.

In an email to the city before last Wednesday’s City Council meeting, Morey said he offered equipment left behind by the school district to the city, but the city elected not to take it. It was given to families or dismantled and recycled.

Because of concerns for site safety and security, Morey added, a fence will be installed around the entire site “but with a wide gate that will allow both pedestrian and vehicle access.”

Morey said he supported the community’s park and recreation planning efforts and hoped that a portion of the former school site will be incorporated in the city’s next parks plan.

Sweet said he will schedule meetings with Morey to



R.J. Marx

Equipment at the former Gearhart Elementary School.

clarify terms of public access to the property.

“I’m looking forward to having a meeting with Mr. Morey and go forward from there,” he said.

Warren: ‘It’s good to be among such a good group of folks’

Continued from Page A1

received the Mayor Vera Katz Volunteer Award.

Warren retired in 2015 and moved with his wife to the northwest coast of Costa Rica.

After three years experiencing the country’s culture, geography and language, they decided to return to the U.S.

They relocated to Gearhart because it checked the most boxes, Warren said after the meeting.

“We were impressed with how Gearhart had

recognized the negative impact short-term rentals have on community life and the long-term rental market,” he said.

Since becoming a Gearhart resident, Warren has served on the budget committee and small business committee. He created a Facebook group, Gearhart Nice Neighbors, where, he said, “the only requirements to join are a connection to Gearhart and a promise to be nice.”

Warren’s nomination was endorsed unanimously by the council at

Wednesday’s meeting.

“It’s good to be among such a good group of folks,” Warren said. “I’ve admired your work for three years.”

Cockrum, who represented Position 3, ran unopposed for mayor after Mayor Matt Brown announced he would not seek reelection.

Along with Cockrum, councilors Reita Fackereil and Dan Jesse each took the oath of office from their homes during the electronic meeting. Jesse won reelection for

Position 4 and Fackereil for the Position 2 seat.

Smith was named interim council president until the new year.

“Thank you Reita, Paulina and Dan,” City Administrator Chad Sweet said. “We appreciate your volunteerism.”

The terms of planning commissioners also came up for reappointment. Commissioners David Smith and Carl Anderson each sought to rejoin the Planning Commission for another four-year term.

Three additional appli-

cants, Julie Nichols, Bob Shortman and Curt Penrod also sought to fill the vacant positions and participated in interviews.

Cockrum reappointed Smith and Anderson to the seven-member commission.

Brent Warren has been appointed to fill Paulina Cockrum’s Position 3 seat on the Gearhart City Council. Cockrum ran unopposed for mayor and took the oath of office at last Wednesday’s City Council meeting.



Sweet: Could face imposition of driving charge

Continued from Page A1

cause why it should not be revoked or terminated based on negative reports.”

Sweet could face imposi-

tion of the driving charge as well as a sentence in a court hearing, Primus said. “It’s a show cause to see if anything should occur in regard to the actions that occurred.

It would be a hearing at this point to find out if he violated his diversion. It’s up to the court to make a determination.”

Sweet was appointed city

administrator in 2011. He is a volunteer at the Gearhart Fire Department and was the former director of the Surfsand Resort in Cannon Beach.

“This is a difficult time for many, with the ongoing pandemic now in its ninth month,” Mayor Paulina Cockrum said. “It is a good time for us all to come

together as a community during the holiday season. I know I feel grateful every day for being able to live in such a special place here on the coast.”

OBITUARY

Alene (Sandy) Marie Winnett Seaside April 26, 1932 — Nov. 27, 2020

Alene (Sandy) Marie Winnett went home to join her nana on Nov. 27, 2020.

Sandy was born April 26, 1932, in Portland to Thelma and Dale Sanders. Her family left Portland after five years and she grew up in Seaside with her brother, Lyle Sanders.



She then moved to Walla Walla, Washington, and worked at the Marcus Whitman Bar, then applied to the Walla Walla School District. She taught third grade at Paine School starting in the fall of 1955.

Sandy was blessed with three children: her sons, Scott and his wife, Linda, and Mark; and her daughter, Kelly, and her husband, Jeff. Sandy has six grandchildren: Jessica, Logan, Hope, Noah, Anna and Riley; and two great-granddaughters, Emma and Elsie.

After raising her children, Sandy returned to work at the Washington State Penitentiary in Walla Walla and taught reading and writing. She took night and weekend classes, and then helped start the Head Start program for the following two years.

Her last employment was at the Employment Security Office from 1973 to 1988, before retiring to Seaside to take care of her ailing parents.

Sandy was a social worker at heart. She has taken care of family and friends her entire life.

Her free time was spent volunteering wherever she was needed. The list is truly extensive. The early years were most notably spent with the Red Cross, and her retired years she spent at the Seaside Museum & Historical Society, and she was a coordinator of her

high school graduation reunions for many years.

Sandy spent the last 20 years with the love of her life, Roger Waller, who will always be a part of Sandy’s family, and is loved dearly.

Sandy was loved by

many and will be dearly missed by family and friends.

There will be no services at this time. A private service will be held in the summer of 2021 at the ocean, where her soul will be at peace.

DEATH NOTICE

Nov. 23, 2020

WEAVER, Paul, 76, of Seaside, died in Seaside. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.

*Your life was a blessing,
your memory a treasure,
you are loved beyond words &
missed beyond measure.*

Never forgotten...

*Happy Heavenly Birthday
Tiffany!*

*Tiffany Ann Phillips
Dec. 12, 1980
Jan. 4, 1998*

We love you!

