

Parking: Businesses have been interested in more options

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Seaside Park 'n' Pay LLC would manage the 225-space parking lot adjacent to the Seaside Civic and Convention Center. The paid parking season could run from March through October. Proposed rates are \$1 per hour Monday through Thursday and \$2 per hour on weekends.

Enforcement, conducted by Seaside Park 'n' Pay, would be 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

"I thought this might be something that might help the town," Israel said. "We wouldn't even have had this conversation 15 years ago, because the technology really didn't exist and we'd be looking at putting in meters, and that wouldn't be very cost effective."

Benefits, Israel said, include an easy payment method, an ability to refill the meter remotely and alerts when a session is about to end. Users would download the app, create an account, park anywhere there is a Park 'n' Pay sign and pay for parking sessions by phone.



Broadway in Seaside, about a block from the Seaside Civic and Convention Center.

R.J. Marx

Management would receive a fee of 20%. Seaside Park 'n' Pay would donate up to 5% of that income back to the community for improvements. Israel said he estimated annual gross revenue of \$853,000 and net revenue to Seaside of more than \$600,000.

Seaside Park 'n' Pay would do staffing, enforcement, signage, user interac-

tion and other management tasks, he said.

Israel would test the concept in a 26-week pilot program from May to October.

The idea of paid parking in Seaside is not new.

"According to my research, the city center parking lot was an idea proposed and pursued by the merchants in the late '80s, early '90s because they

needed more parking to provide customer convenience hoping to result in increased business in the downtown core," City Councilor Tita Montero said. "Since that time, merchants have repeatedly indicated the need for increased parking in the downtown core."

In 2002, the City Council opted to use a shuttle service through the Sunset

Empire Transportation District rather than institute paid parking downtown.

When the convention center discussed its \$15 million expansion plan in 2015, a parking structure was among the items proposed, at an additional cost of \$6 million. The lot would have cost the city \$200,000 for 30 years. The expansion, completed in 2019, did not

include the parking structure component.

Before Israel's presentation, Montero sought a City Council discussion on whether such an initiative should be considered.

"If the decision were to turn the lot into paid parking, the city would then consider whether to self-manage or put out an RFP (request for proposal) for management," Montero said. "It is inappropriate for the council to now listen to a sales pitch business proposal that infers that such a decision has been made or that such action is being considered."

She asked that the item be removed from the agenda until the council followed "appropriate and due process that determines whether such a proposal is in order."

While Montero's suggestion to table the presentation was unsuccessful, city councilors reserved comment on the paid parking plan.

"At this point we have your presentation and proposal," Mayor Jay Barber told Israel. "We'll make sure we bring that to our goals group when we meet."

Aquarium: Funds aid library foundation

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Estuary Discovery Program and the Northern Oregon/Southern Washington Marine Mammal Stranding Network, which the aquarium co-founded in 1998 with Portland State University.

Maine's wife, Karen, launched the Haystack Rock Awareness Program in 1987; a collaboration with the aquarium continues with the World of Haystack Rock Lecture Series.

Young people from 16 to 18 often get their first job at the aquarium, Maine said. Keith Chandler, the aquarium's general manager, said it "does a great job of getting them ready for the workforce."

Seaside Public Library Foundation board member Leah Griffith joined Maine, Chandler, Boothe and the library's executive director, Esther Moberg, at Sunday's fundraising event.

"We were very excited that Neal selected the library foundation as the partner for this first event," Griffith said. "We're thrilled to be here and support Neal. He was one of my teachers at Seaside High School all those years ago. He inspired a lot of people to step up their environmental awareness in the 1970s. He was a great teacher."

Sunday's receipts will be used for the purchase of American with Disabilities Act-accessible computers

Aquarium recovers loggerhead turtle

Seaside Signal

A turtle recovered in Rockaway Beach is on its way to recovery after efforts from staff at the Seaside Aquarium.

At about 9 a.m. last Monday the aquarium received a call about a sea turtle on Rockaway Beach.

Upon arrival they discovered it was an immature loggerhead sea turtle, unresponsive and presumed dead. When the sun came out, a loggerhead sea turtle stunned by cold ocean water unresponsive and hypothermic, began to show signs of life, twitching its eyes and moving its head slowly up and down.

Seaside Aquarium prepared the turtle for transfer and got it down to the Oregon



Tiffany Boothe/Seaside Aquarium

The immature loggerhead that stranded was approximately 25 pounds but when mature can weigh over 300 pounds.

Coast Aquarium. The turtle was to remain there until it was stable enough to move down to California for further

rehabilitation with the hopes of being released back into the ocean.

The immature loggerhead

that stranded was approximately 25 pounds but when mature can weigh over 300 pounds.

School board: Lum Toyooka won't seek reelection

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running this May for the Seaside school board," Owen said last week. "After having the honor of filling a vacant spot, I see how critical this board seat is to our district. I'm looking forward

to building relationships with staff and seeing our students grow in a post-pandemic school year."

Lori Lum Toyooka, who was elected to Gearhart's Zone 3 Position 1 in 2017, said Tuesday she would not seek a second term. The Gearhart resident and

general manager at Lum's Auto Center was elected to Gearhart's Zone 3 Position 1 in 2017. She thanked board members for their "amazing" service to the community.

Michelle Wunderlich, owner of the Seaside Coffee House, represents the

at-large Zone 7 Position 1 board seat, has yet to announce her plans. She won election to the board in 2017.

Board president Mark Truax, who represents Zone 4 Position 2 in Gearhart, and board members Sondra Gomez and Shannon

Swedenborg will be up for reelection in 2023. Swedenborg represents Cannon Beach's Zone 1 Position 1 and Gomez Seaside's Zone 5 Position 1.

Feb. 6 was the first day for district candidates to file for candidacy. March 18 is the last day to file declara-

tion or withdrawal of candidacy. Ballots will be mailed April 28.

Candidates must be a registered voter and resident of the zone for one year immediately preceding the election or appointment. Candidates may not be employed by school district.

Restrictions: 'Hopefully we won't be closing again for some time'

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graders back at school and older students returning in the weeks to come, the park district adjusted their

program, which had been limited to emergency child care.

Students in the first cohort are dropped off at the Sunset Recreation Center,

then bussed to Pacific Ridge Elementary School for classes before being returned to the recreation center to be picked up at the end of the day by par-

ents and guardians.

"We want to be flexible and adapting until children are back to their normal schedule," Archibald said.

Another related change

will come with the resumption of in-person meetings. While safety and distancing protocols will remain in place, work sessions and regular meetings will be held in

the Bob Chisholm Community Center or a space in the Sunset Recreation Center.

"Hopefully we won't be closing again for some time," Archibald said.



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This will be the only sale in March. Come check it out, you will be amazed!

651 Help Wanted



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