

Ordinance: Approved locations for camping await

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vative constitutional attorney cannot challenge this ordinance, but I am of the opinion that it should be implemented.”

As a makeshift RV camp on 10th Avenue and Necanicum Drive continues to cause concern for residents and visitors alike, Sandra Sheets, a resident who lives nearby, said the ordinance would make the city safer.

“We’ve been concerned about the increase in activity at the park and I do think 2022-04 is a good start,” he said.

City Councilor Randy Frank said the ordinance would give Police Chief Dave Ham a “starting spot” to enable police to regulate illegal. “It will be nice to have something to give your staff the ability to go out and deal with people,” he said.

The city’s Houseless Task Force, an outgrowth of a year of public forums on housing and homelessness, aimed to produce guidelines that will clear overnight camping on city property by creating permitted alternatives.

The measure puts in place a program for temporary overnight camping on both residential and nonresidential properties. Vehicles, including vans or motor homes, would need to be registered in compliance with vehicle insurance responsibilities.

Permits would be valid for three weeks, at which time they could be renewed.

While individual parking or camping locations were not designated, proposed locations for limited numbers of permitted vehicles include parts of Shore Terrace, Necanicum Drive, Cartwright Park, Avenue G and Mill Ponds Park.

Camping would be prohibited at all public park areas, public parking lots, restrooms or publicly owned properties within residential zoning districts, along with U.S. Highway 101, Avenue U, Wahanna Drive, First Avenue to Avenue A, Necanicum Drive and other locations.

Some residents asked the City Council for more details on the proposed



R.J. Marx

Officials hope a new ordinance will help clear this RV encampment at 10th and Necanicum Drive.

‘GIVEN THE TENDENCY FOR THE CAMPERS TO CREATE MESSSES, THAT COULD BE A MAJOR BLOW TO THE PARKS PROGRAM.’

City Councilor Tom Horning

camping sites before moving forward with the ordinance.

“As a parent, I find some of the proposed locations that were discussed very concerning,” said Susie James, a resident. “I would like to see some specific verbiage saying it cannot be at public parks. As a parent and as a person who works in the hospitality industry. I understand that tourists are what drive this town. But if you’re making it impossible for people to raise their family safely, we’re not going to have people to work in the hotels and restaurants because everyone’s going to move away.”

Tenth Avenue resident Russ Mead objected that the city would be endorsing a place without electricity, water or sewer.

“This seems absolutely unacceptable to me in a town like Seaside or a city like Seaside,” Mead said. “It’s disrespectful to the property owners. It’s disrespectful to the people who are living in these campers.”

Mead suggested the city abandon the proposal altogether and focus efforts on an emergency homeless shelter with electricity, showers and bathroom facilities.

“All of us deserve better than this,” Mead said.

Sunset Boulevard resident Stephanie Millman echoed the need to provide alternative services to the homeless population.

“It is better to spend that money enabling community-based connected services to help the homeless get off the streets and work on their situation — whether financial or mental health,” she wrote in a letter to the City Council.

Mayor Jay Barber, City Councilor Steve Wright, City Councilor Randy Frank and City Councilor Dana Phillips voted in favor of the ordinance on Monday in first and second readings.

City Councilor Tita Montero voted “no” to both readings.

City Councilor Tom Horning approved the ordi-

nance in the first reading, but not in the second. City Councilor David Posalski was absent.

“I wanted the process to take its time, rather than accelerating the approval process, mostly so everyone in the city could have a say, if needed,” Horning said after the meeting.

“I don’t have any problems with the ordinance in particular. The rest of the process will be in the policy of where we will allow campers to spend the night. I am not keen on Cartwright Park or the Mill Ponds being allowed.

“Given the tendency for the campers to create messes, that could be a major blow to the parks program.”

The ordinance will return to the City Council for a third and final reading on April 25. If passed, it would become law within 30 days.

“We really worked hard to try to recognize all of the concerns about defending the rights of people who live in Seaside, the housed people, but also at the same time defending the rights of people who are houseless and also to do it legally so that we will not be in court over our decisions,” Barber said. “There’s still more work to be done. And we’ll continue to work on that. But I think we made a good step forward.”

Robotics: Seagulls form team alliances

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Teams then have six weeks to complete their robot. At that point, they are allowed to fix broken parts or functions between competitions, but they can’t improve or rebuild the robots in any way.

Carrying forward

In 2020, Seaside’s team — along with others across the country — completed their robots and had the chance to attend a scrimmage before COVID hit. All competitions were canceled for the season.

During the following period of distance learning, Vandershule and the other coaches found ways to continue carrying the program forward. They met with students virtually and assigned projects that they could complete individually, such as building a robotic arm and a small, mobile robot from kits.

In summer 2021, they reconvened for mini classes and workshops on programming, engineering, using power tools and other skills needed to participate.

The CYBORG Seagulls’ first in-person event was a district event in Wilsonville from March 10 to 12. They made it to the semifinals with their alliance, which combines the teams of three different high schools.

“It was awesome to be back in person, even though we were masked,” Vandershule said. “It was really great to see everybody.”

Many of the coaches and students have been involved in the program multiple years, and they appreciated the chance to

get back in touch with one another.

At the district event in Salem, the Seaside team was in top form. They were picked for the first alliance after qualifying matches. However, one of the three alliance robots broke down during competition, and the alliance ended up losing in the semifinals.

Additionally, because of COVID, the district championship organizers decided to cut the field of teams able to attend.

Learning life skills

Beyond the enjoyment and challenge of competition, Acuna believes there are other benefits that come from participating in the high school’s robotics program. He joined his freshman and was immediately impressed. That led him to staying all four years.

He appreciates that he’s learned different facets of engineering and programming, as well as fundraising and how to use power tools and specialty machines, like the school’s 3D printer. Those are life skills he anticipates using in the future, regardless of his career.

For other students, participation in robotics has helped them achieve placement at secondary institutions they wanted to attend and scholarships.

The school’s website adds that the skills learned in robotics “build upon the course content that students learn in their classes while helping them see the possibilities that skills in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) could lead them to a satisfying and rewarding career.”

Brothers: Pricing is very important

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happy to help each other out.”

Sea operated the Seaside location as CBD Hemp Store Outlet before opening as a cannabis dispensary. “When I first had the CBD store, it did pretty well,” he said.

But when the pandemic hit and with grocery and variety stores carrying CBD products, Sea sought to pivot, becoming the first cannabis dispensary in the outlet mall. The dispensary

still carries CBD products, and he recommends them to people who want the effects without the euphoric high of THC, the active ingredient in cannabis.

Sea has three employees, all of whom worked at the CBD hemp store.

They are getting hands-on training, he said. “They’ve been selling CBD so they’re pretty good. Right now I’m just fortunate to have them as my employees. They know what to do and they’re ready pretty much from CBD to dispensary. So

it’s pretty easy for them to transition.”

Brothers will sell a “lot of high-end flower,” he said, featuring premium flower buds from Portland.

“Our customers are the connoisseurs as well as the budget shoppers, people that need it every day, people that smoke weed once in a while,” he said. “We have specialty products we try to get in not a lot people may not have. We probably have the best price on glass in town, our smoking apparatus.”

Pricing is very important, he added. “Older stores like mine may have better pricing just because we’ve been around so long working with these farms. That’s the big advantage we will have over a lot of new stores is: No. 1, customer service, No. 2, our products. We’ve got our customer service down really well and we only keep the best products.”

Business hours are Monday through Friday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; 503-739-7217.

Ridge Path: Bicycles recalled as childhood tradition

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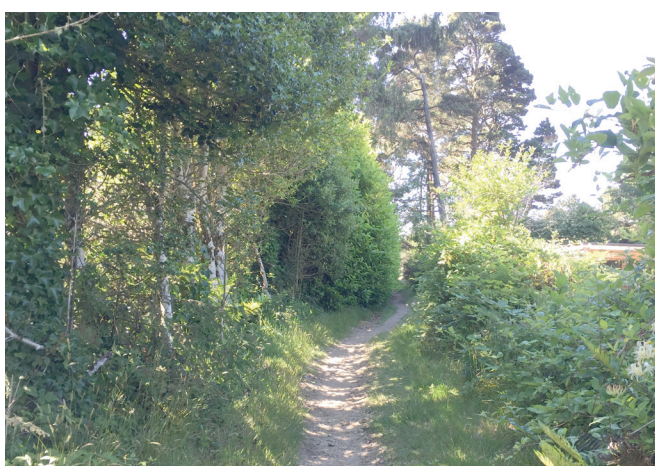
the original plat of Gearhart Park, as laid out and recorded by M.J. Kinney in 1890.

In March, after hearing safety and environmental concerns, city councilors suggested adding language to the city’s parks master plan to ban bicycles along the path.

At that meeting, City Attorney Peter Watts said when donations were solicited for the Ridge Path, it was presented as a walking path. He also said bicycles could create a legal liability for the city.

But in correspondence, residents pointed to the tradition of bikes on the path and their health advantages, urging the City Council to drop the ban.

Skyler Archibald, a resident who serves as executive director of the Sunset



R.J. Marx

Gearhart Ridge Path.

Empire Park and Recreation District in Seaside, said development of recreation opportunities is one of the characteristics that make a community livable and inclusive.

“I strongly object to the notion of banning bicycles on the Ridge Path,” he said. “Limiting recreation

opportunities for the citizens of Gearhart, particularly young people, is an injustice to those that need less barriers to participation, not more.”

Penny Sabol, a resident, said her parents bought a cottage on the Ridge Path when she was a child.

“One of the most won-

derful memories in my life is traveling that path to Little Beach on our bikes to spend the day playing with our friends,” she said. “We would travel the path, once again on our bikes, to Cutler’s Grocery to buy penny candy and then just tool around town.”

“Now, I have young grandchildren just entering the age to enjoy the Ridge Path. I want them to have the happy memories I have enjoyed. I urge you to please not pass this ordinance.”

Rather than an ordinance, Cockrum said she would work with staff on some improved signs, particularly on Third Street.

The topic will return at a City Council work session in May, at which time the mayor will seek an alternative. For now, the wording “footpath” will remain in the parks master plan for historical purposes.

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