

Building a Bridge to our Future

Community Meeting: Environment

June 19th, 2014

Summary:

14 people in attendance

Pictures of the event board attached at end of document

Presented by Jay Barber and Community Partner Melyssa Graeper

- Visioning the environment over the next 20 years
- Update on the Watershed Council
 - Works on bodies of water related to the Neacoxie, Neawanna, and the Necanicum.
 - 90% ownership by the Campbell group
 - One project they had worked on recently was a joint project with the city in which they created a better system on the south fork of the Necanicum making it fish friendly while still available for municipal water use. All fish ladders were removed.
 - They are looking to work on projects within the city limits that are more visible.
 - Another future project that has been started is that of creating a Natural History Park at Seaside's mill pond area.
 - Visioning the future includes having a plan for the different parks and the Natural History Park is a perfect example of this.
- Community member concerns about river next to 101 and properties there that are still on septic systems, the question was whether there was anything being done about seepage into the water.
- Response was that in council goal setting they have an objective to annex these properties which would make them transfer over to the city's sewer system. This process is under way but it will take time.

- Another comment regarding the sewer treatment plan about environment focus and making sure the estuary was protected while also protecting the sewer treatment plant from estuary encroachment. There is a need for eradication of invasive species in that area and the focus needs to be both on the water (estuary) and the land surrounding it as part of a future environmental plan.
- It would be great to have a river walk beautification plan from 1st street to 12th street with a walking area next to the river.
- They would like to see a historic houses plaque program since Seaside is the oldest coast community in Oregon. Not enforcing that the house keep to original plans but rather just an informational plaque regarding historical significance, possibly starting with public buildings and then moving on to residences.
- One person really liked that City of Seaside made a proclamation regarding being a welcoming city. He felt that there was a lot of racial inclusiveness and all sexual orientations were accepted throughout Seaside. The remark was made that this was an inclusive town since we welcome visitors and there is a primary focus on bringing visitors in. The downside of this is an increase in potential pollution or trash.
- A comment was made regarding enforcement of trash policies such as banning plastic bags or requiring motels and businesses to recycle and inform all tourists on where the recycle bins are located.
- We need a more comprehensive approach to recycling for both visitors and community members.
- Seaside has a lot of natural resources available to us, how can we enhance and improve them? Many cities have to create parks within the town, we are fortunate in that we truly a town within a park.
- City Council has given their approval for future focus on the millponds and development of this natural resource area.
- South entrance to the town was discussed and the first view many people get of Seaside, not an attractive sight. Are there ways to improve the areas both through the county and city?
- Response was that this has to be worked on piece by piece because of ownership issues. If this could become a focal point could be even nicer than the prom as an attractive entrance to Seaside.
- Ecotourism as a focus for Seaside was discussed. Many tourists go to places that they know are focused on eco-tourism. Clean environment options could include kayaking, biking, hiking, and other highlighted ecologically friendly things for visitors to do.
- The banks of the river really need to be cleaned up.
- Danger of biking along the highway was discussed, safer more beautiful bike trails that go through the whole town would be ideal.
More education overall regarding invasive species, littering, and ecology should be promoted within Seaside. People should be educated regarding feeding seagulls.
- Some community members take ownership. An example was given of a group that cleans up Selzer Park every day. Community groups need to influence cleaning up around their areas or community spaces.
- Mention of highway being too noisy in the early morning can there be a re-routing of business traffic or a bypass.

- Air quality is a concern and more options for energy
- One suggestion was to eliminate slash burning by using it for a power plant and heat for the community, the creation of a biomass facility was suggested.
- The Watershed council members mentioned that they use some of the slash already for placement in streams. They also recycle Christmas trees by using them in streams to mimic trees that would fall over naturally into streambeds.
- One concern was regarding all the freshwater lakes in the area that used to be connected, is the estuary drying up? Response that because of housing developments and the fact that the estuary does not have a jetty, the estuary is not drying up but rather it is allowed to change its course naturally. The beaches move as part of the natural system. There was a mention that there has been a change in recent years in more extremes in high and low tides.
- Community members agreed they would like to see a resilience plan for adaption to future climate change.
- In the past, the prom and turnaround used to be jeopardized by the waves, the beach has grown dramatically because of jetties further down the coast. The dunes are also much taller than they used to be according to statistics on dune management from 1994.
- The sewer treatment plant has taken huge strides forward with a new dryer that treats the sewage product and turns it into a dry product reducing fuel costs. It also reduces contact by staff with chemical treatment. This is a \$4 million dollar investment that is for the future of Seaside. What used to take 14 tanker trucks now takes one smaller truck to remove.
- Need more awareness in the city of publicity of all the environmental projects that are happening and when they are finished, a sense of celebration.
- On an annual basis more should be done to celebrate environmental successes.
- We need to focus more on what is beautiful in Seaside.
- Future statement:
- What is unique on the Oregon coast about Seaside and if we ever had to rebuild what are the pieces that are at the core of what Seaside is all about?
- The turnaround and prom would be rebuilt
- Someone mentioned tables that used to be at the cove have never been replaced.
- There is a plan in place for extending a prom like walk way on the beach side of the cove to help tourists not have to walk in the road.
- There was also a recommendation of a national park sign at the salt cairn.

Clean up N & S city entrances

Enhance Eco tourism

Restore River banks (spec. S entrance)

Seaside become "GREEN COMMUNITY"

Better biking paths/access

EDUCATE ~~on~~ on invasives/gull/raccoon feeding

CLEAN UP SET → Seltzer Park

PARK CLEAN UP ~~on~~ other parks

Hwy noise pollution

AIR QUALITY - forest slash burning
→ Biomass ~~facility~~ facility

Resiliency to climate change

Increase citizen awareness on city
Efforts → Sewer dryer

→ Celebrate accomplishments

Protect Sewer facility
dryer product = city revenue

Invasive Species (Early Detect / Rapid Response)
↳ EDUCATION

River Walk 1-12th on Necanicum

Built Environment → Historic Buildings
plaque program

'WELCOMING' CITY

Educate tourists - ~~water~~ pollution issues

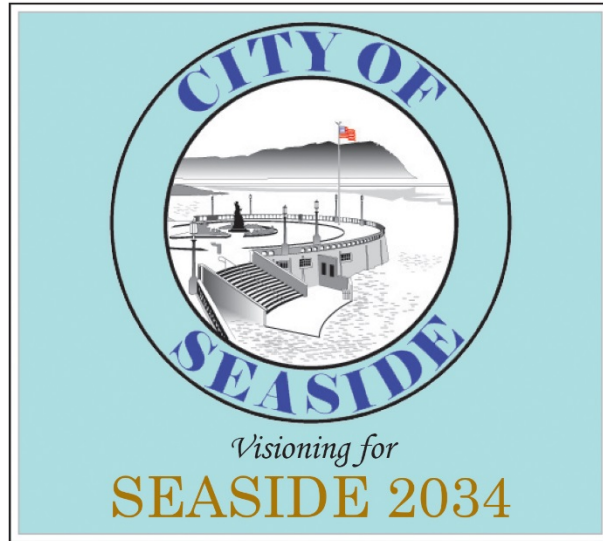
Recycling Programs - Plastic Bag
elimination

Requiring Hotels/motels to recycle
residents → Recycling program trainings

Maintain Existing Greenspaces/ways

Continue NHP process

Enviing viewshed



Visioning 2034

Community Discussion Groups

Topic: Environment

Teens



(Word map demonstrating words that were used in response to the surveys)

Environment

- I think it might look a little bit colorful than it is now and more buildings will be built and more plants and animals will be alive.
- i think it will be more green and full of life and we will improve on other things through out the way
- more pretty and out there

[illegible]

Environment

- I think it will look like chunks of garbage but I will take care of Seaside.
- I really want it to be like it is with more animal shelters!
- the beach more cleaner
- Rubish and mess
- I think Seaside will look like a nice little beach town with trees and the prom. Not too many buildings and parking lots to leave the forest alone. Get rid of the old theater and something new out of it.
- More trees, less cars, gas station as horse feeding station. No trash. Horses instead of cars. No streets and gasoline.
- They would get rid of cars and put in horses and make the gas stations be places for food and water and get whole families to move in together and make houses bigger with barns, and have all the roads be dirt for the horses.
- I think seaside will have a cleaner beach and community.
- good sunny plants blue sky.

[illegible]

Environment

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- I hope the city wide natural resources concept is developed. I'd like to see river activities for the visitors continue.
- A great appreciation at the level of city leadership for the natural world.

Visitors



(Word map demonstrating words that were used in response to the surveys)

Environment

- no beach driving, cleaner
- Trash on the beach
- remove the dry grass sand dunes
- Cleaner!! Too much trash downtown, overflowing garbage dirty bathrooms

Appendix A: Community submission by John Dunzer

JOHN DUNZER -- VISION 2034 INPUTS-- SEASIDE OREGON

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL

1. TAKE SEWAGE OUTFLOW AND PUT IN OCEAN OUTFALL TO ELIMINATE ODORS AND IMPROVE ESTUARY WATER QUALITY.
2. REDEVELOP WEST SIDE OF 101 BETWEEN HOLIDAY AND AVE U TO ELIMINATE DISCHARGE OF SEWAGE INTO RIVER FROM RESIDENTIAL CESSPOOLS.
3. ELIMINATE FORESTRY TRUCK NOISE AND POLLUTION ON 101 BY REDIRECTING THIS TYPE OF TRAFFIC TO USING THE MAINLINE TRUCK ROUTE AROUND THE CITY.
4. PROVIDE ELECTRIC AND NATURAL GAS SUPPLIES THAT WILL SURVIVE THE FORECASTED EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMI. ENCOURAGE THE STATE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION TO MEET ITS RENEWABLE ENERGY AND DISTRIBUTED POWER GENERATION GOALS BY ENCOURAGING PACIFIC POWER TO SITE A WASTE WOOD ELECTRICAL GENERATION FACILITY ABOVE SEASIDE WITH ACCESS FROM THE MAIN LINE.
5. CONVERT ALL GOVERNMENT VEHICLES AND COMMERCIAL FLEETS IN CLATSOP COUNTY TO RUN ON EITHER GASOLINE OR NATURAL GAS. CREATE PERMANENT NATURAL GAS STORAGE AT MAINLINE POWER PLANT SITE. WILL CUT POLLUTION IN HALF AND REDUCE FUEL COSTS BY 50%.
6. GET STATE TO REQUIRE DIVERSION OF FOREST SLASH FROM OPEN AIR BURNING TO POWER PLANT USE.
7. MAKE CITY MORE WALKABLE BY EXTENDING FROM SOUTH TO COVE AREA, CONVERTING WEST BROADWAY INTO A PEDESTRIAN STREET AND ELIMINATING VEHICLE TURNS THAT JEOPARDIZE PEDESTRIAN CROSSING 101 AT BROADWAY.
8. REDUCE THE USE OF FOSSIL FUELS FOR HEATING PUBLIC BUILDINGS BY RECOVERING STEAM FROM WOOD WASTE POWER PLANT AND PIPING IT AS SUGGESTED BY THE ATTACHED PLAN.

