

Oceanside Neighborhood Association Meeting
Regular Meeting
Minutes
August 1, 2015

Meeting called to order at 10:05 AM by Judson Randall, ONA president, in the Oceanside Chapel. There were 27 persons present at 10:50 a.m. A quorum was reached

The minutes of the June 6, 2015, meeting were approved. The treasurer's report, which was at the bottom of the agenda, showed an ONA bank balance of \$809.38 and a Clean Water Subcommittee balance of \$489.90.

Our scheduled main speaker, Mike Cohen, the Tillamook County Economic Director, did not make the meeting, so we moved on. It was later noted by several people that we were disappointed Mike didn't make it, and we hope he can present his comments on the County economy and efforts to improve cell phone service in our community at the next meeting in October.

Bike Safety was discussed. Jud noted that state Hwy. 131 from Tillamook to Oceanside is a very dangerous route for bicyclists. Near milepost 5, where a cyclist was hit and killed 10 months ago, is one of the worst spots. He asked if we should consider advocating for a bike lane near there, perhaps on the south side of the road where some shoulder exists. There was much discussion. The highlights and main points:

- West bound cyclists would have to cross the highway to get to the proposed bike path, a dangerous act. Jud agreed that his idea had flaws.
- The speed limit on Hwy. 131 is too high for the blind corners, of which there are many. Jim Long suggested that the speed limit should be reduced.
- Signs to warn cyclists, and drivers, of the extreme danger could be put more often.
- Flashing lights, activated by cyclists when entering the stretch, could be installed.
- Rumble strips, or speed bumps, could be installed to slow traffic. Some thought this not realistic. Jud reported that in previous conversations with the State Highway Division, rumble strips and speed bumps are not allowed on state highways
- A partial bike lane should not be our goal, but a complete lane through the entire Hwy 131 route. Most agreed with this idea, but money is always an issue.
- Hwy 131 is a substandard road (few shoulders), and changing this will take time. Could we use the ONA budget to put up our own warning signs? It was noted we have limited money, and perhaps the County/State would not allow us to put up signs.
- Ask local authorities (sheriff, County) to put up electronic sign(s) to warn of dangers.

Can we use Transient Lodging Tax (TLT) money, collected from short-term-rentals, 70 percent designated for tourism, 30 percent designated for roads, to build a bike lane, or pay for other of the above suggestions? It appears questionable if this would fall under the tourism umbrella, but worth checking on.

Could we use TLT money to have the tourism industry (Chamber of Commerce?, Tourism program?) craft a brochure to warn/inform cyclists of the dangers of Hwy. 131?

Have we contacted any bike coalitions to bring awareness to the problem? Not yet, but it's a good idea.

Are we talking to Netarts and Tillamook as well? It's not just Oceanside's problem and we might be wise to get help. Good idea to contact other communities that share the problem.

We could publish more letters to increase awareness.

Kris Woolpert recalled that the ONA had asked the county public works department a year or so ago to install signs on Cape Meares Loop Road heading downhill into Oceanside that would warn motorists to slow down. The county put up a stop sign warning sign. A motion was made and passed to direct Jud to write a letter to Public Works (Liane Welch) asking again for signage that asks motorists to slow down approaching Oceanside. The ONA members added a request to Public Works that the speed limit on Chinook Avenue just east of Maxwell Mountain Road be reduced from 25 to 5 mph.

We next moved to the "Welcome to Oceanside" letter. This letter was written in 2009 and was aimed at short-term, vacation renters. At the time, the County Commissioners objected to the ONA letter because we were only a land-use advisory group, according to them, and the letter was outside our responsibilities. Since that time, the commissioners have agreed that ONA can advise on all matters important to us, not just land-use matters. Again, much discussion ensued, the highlights being:

- Other suggested inclusions - Tsunami Danger - Water (ocean) safety re: temperature, currents, etc. - Limited cell phone coverage - Limited sidewalks, so be careful with people and pets.
- Beach fires are conditionally legal - adhere to conditions and put fires out with water before covering with sand
- Parking is an issue in Oceanside, and be courteous and sensible for tourists and residents.
- Make sure garbage is put in containers, specifically at the residence where you stay.
- People drive too fast in and around Oceanside. Some signs allow 25 MPH when sensibly it should be much less (5, 10?). Change signs. Some noted people won't pay attention to signs anyway, so perhaps moot point.

- On the humorous side, “Speed Trap” signs and a “Bell Machine,” activated by fast and furious driving, were suggested as well...
- It was also noted that the 2011 Community Plan lost footing in the County’s eye when county planners felt we didn’t have ordinances to enact with the plan. We felt this wasn’t true. Ordinances governing lighting and grading were proposed to the county, but the general residential, commercial and park ordinances were not. Perhaps this could be revisited. Lots of good ideas came with the 2011 plan.

Jud agreed to try and get the 2011 plan revisited by Community Development Department.

Along with the idea of protecting garbage from raccoons, Cheryl Evans noted that she saw a bear recently scavenging on the east end of Grand Street. And there was a report of a cougar sighting.

It was asked, what’s the road and paving plan after the water-line installation is done? Many discussed this, and Jud said he would call Jeannette Steinbach at Public Works to obtain a schedule, and send it to everyone.

The County Public Works Department identified several roads in the spring, including Portland Avenue.

Other quick items - Who owns the abandoned play area on Chinook? Kathie Norris raised her hand and mentioned it was offered for a cell tower, but rejected.

Hazardous Waste collection is this weekend at the dump for free. Take advantage.

Over 150 people enjoyed The Gathering at the Community Center last month. Thanks to all who participated.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ron Young
Acting Secretary