

Oceanside Neighborhood Association Meeting

Regular Meeting

Minutes

October 3, 2015

Meeting called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Judson Randall, ONA president, in the Oceanside Chapel. There were 27 persons present at 11:25 a.m. A quorum was reached.

The minutes of the August 1, 2015 meeting were approved. There were no changes to the treasurer's report. An update will be provided on December 5, 2015.

Guest speakers were Mike Cohen, Tillamook County Economic Director and Liane Welch, Public Works Director.

Mike Cohen has been in the Oceanside, Tillamook area since January 2015. He is 50 percent Director of Economic Development, and 50 percent Director of the Small Business Development Center at Tillamook Bay Community College. His biggest challenge since relocating to this area is lack of cell service.

While trying to improve economic development in the area, his goal is not to bring in more companies, but improve the profitability of existing companies. This presents a challenge since the lack of cell service is detrimental to an increase in outside interests of existing companies.

In searching for a solution to this problem, he discovered AT&T, Verizon, Intel, etc. are not interested in making cell phone service a priority in Tillamook, Netarts, or Oceanside, because there is not enough money to be made in this area. Tourists are not being counted for use of cell phones in this range; subsequently the cell phone companies do not see a potential need for a tower or improved coverage. Since these companies are For Profit entities, there are no laws or regulations they have to abide by. The tragedy is lack of emergency coverage. We need a life line.

Several suggestions, such as grant proposal for building a cell booster/reflector, political petitioning, contacting K2 Investigative, contacting the cell phone companies themselves, contacting OPB for a real story, etc., were introduced as possible assistance with this problem. The strongest suggestion was to put pressure on the carriers themselves. Let tourists know they should contact their cell provider and let them know they can't get service in this area. If everyone lets their carriers know they are dissatisfied, perhaps that will get some attention to this problem. Mike offered his services to help write a grant proposal to ask for money from the government, to at least implement some emergency help. But not a lot can be done until we get a promise from one of the carriers they will work with us and put in a cell tower.

While lack of cell phones services are a big problem facing economic development, the lack of housing for white-collar workers taking positions with the area's larger corporations is another struggle. Tillamook Cheese Factory cannot fill certain positions, because there is no place for them to live if they relocate here. Most households in this wage range cannot afford to buy a

home therefore, without living quarters that are affordable, growth potential is limited. Regional Solutions is interested in this topic, for our community and the surrounding communities. Building county apartment complexes could help minimize this problem.

Although organized tourism is a part of EDC, Mike does not have anything to do with tourism tax or its appropriation. Incorporated areas can use tourism tax for specific projects. Unincorporated areas have to share tourism tax monies with other areas in the County.

Mike stated he has rewritten the entire policy for small business loan funding. He is implementing revolving loan funds. The goal is to get dozens of loans out to entrepreneurs to help get their businesses off the ground. Tillamook Bay Community College offers workshops for people who want to start a business, but need guidance for success. The workshops offered through Tillamook SBDC will help put a business plan together, fix credit issues, financing, and find community investors (Community Public Offerings). Joining the EDC organization will increase a broad base membership and increase the economic council, increasing the voice of the people.

Liane Welch, Public Works Director, reminded us of the monthly recycling located at the Netarts Fire Station, and passed out magnets with the times for solid hazardous waste collection at the dump. She continued with the Emergency Management sister county relationship program. In the event of an earthquake, our sister county would be Umatilla. Redmond will be the emergency leadership if Liane is not available, that will help to get transportation services back up and running in the aftermath. Public Works, at the City level, currently run emergency exercises for preparedness. Self-preparedness is very important for survival. Make sure you map your neighborhood and have provisions to survive.

Additionally, Liane presented the letter that was written to her by ONA asking for some road signage assistance. The letter requested the 25mph speed limit sign on Maxwell Mountain be replaced because the sign was dull and was hard to see. That sign was replaced. Vegetation in the area is a problem as well. ONA needs to contact person(s) who own the lot, and have them cut back the overgrowth to properly see the sign. ONA asked if the speed limit on Chinook Avenue could be reduced to 5mph. State and County laws says neighborhood speed limit is 25mph. No one can travel 5mph on the road. This will not happen. Members asked if they can post their own signs. Liane said signs to slow down can be placed on private property, but not on the right-of-way of county roads. A reduced "speed zone ahead" sign can be posted at the sewer department.

Oceanside Water District and the County Public Works Department formed a partnership for paving roads when trenches were dug for new water lines. The County ended up paying \$42,000 for paving Sunset, Cedar, and Portland Avenue. The paving department ran out of weather to complete paving. Even though there has not been much paving done in Oceanside for a long time, County can only afford to pave about 2 miles next year.

Aster does not have a sign for parallel parking. The space behind Three Arch Inn is legal to parallel park. The houses across the street from Three Arch Inn have illegal retaining walls. The walls and parking spaces are actually in the right-of-way of county roads.

Good news is Cape Meares Loop – Public Works is designing a new road around the landslide. Public Works is looking at possibly using the Laviolette property to avoid major impact on the OWD. Have qualified and received a \$4 million grant to assist in the Cape Meares Loop road construction.

As far as putting bicycle signs up on Hwy. 131, that is State controlled. It was suggested to place symbols in the road for bicyclist, but have to have a bike lane for that to happen.

Liane is attending a fundraiser in Washington, for the Tiger Funds. This organization needs strong community support. It is a Federal program to fund rural projects.

Mary Flock asked about a website update for Oceanside. Jud will follow up with Jerzy Rub who is managing it; nothing to report on right now.

Jim Carlson, of Netarts Community, is seeking to develop an emergency center at the sewer treatment plant. A committee of volunteers is needed for this development. Pam Zielinski volunteered.

It was requested we have Tim Carpenter, Fire Chief, Netarts/Oceanside Fire Department present Map Your Neighborhood at our next meeting.

Next meeting will be held in the Oceanside Community Center on Saturday, December 5, 2015.

Meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.