

OCEANSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
(www.oceansidefriends.org)
Regular Meeting, December 5, 2015

President Judson Randall called the meeting of the Oceanside Neighborhood Association to order at 10:04 a.m. Saturday, December 5, 2015 in the Oceanside Community Center. There were 18 people present – not enough for a quorum. Guest speaker was David Yamamoto, Candidate for Tillamook County Board Commissioners.

PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

October 3, 2015, meeting minutes were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

ONA bank statement has not changed since October 2015. The bank is slow getting statements out.

DAVID YAMAMOTO

Mr. Yamamoto is currently running for the County Commissioner's Seat in Tillamook County. He is a Pacific City resident, has lived in Tillamook County for a decade and understands the needs of the seniors, unincorporated communities, Ocean policy issues, economic development needs and water-shed urgency.

Mr. Yamamoto stated that there are 36 counties in Oregon, 7 of which are coastal counties. There are 363 miles of coastline and Tillamook represents 20% of the residential population. Which means the residents in Tillamook county have a huge voice in what happens to the coast when it comes to Territorial Sea Policy. This includes the introduction of ocean energy devices such as windmills to assist energy production, beacons for navigation, and impacts on the ocean communities that innovation could bring.

Goals include long-term care for seniors and economic development. Mr. Yamamoto feels that care for our seniors can be accomplished without government or state assistance, if the communities assist with senior care. Ideas were to make sure ride assistance to and from appointments, food shopping, and general care are supplemented by the surrounding community.

This area was founded largely through the timber industry. Going forward, we will not be able to rely on this industry to support the surrounding communities. Additional jobs need to be created for the timber, dairy and fishing industries. He stated that the only place left in Tillamook for development is the industrial area of the Port of Tillamook Bay. Affordable workforce housing is currently unavailable to handle the current and future jobs, available in this area. He suggested that the outlying areas such as Netarts, Pacific City, Cloverdale, etc. be considered to build affordable housing.

Meg Thompson asked if there were any solutions for the cycling road dilemma. With the increase in tourism, bringing cyclist to this area, can the roads be expanded to accommodate the demand? He has been working with ODOT to try and remedy this problem. The County does

not have the money to update roads nor does ODOT at this time. A question of road weight limit was brought up for Hwy. 131 near Happy Camp. With all the quarry trucks traveling the roadways, does this affect the integrity of this road. Kris Woolpert recommended that the hillside at Netarts bay be replanted to help with erosion problems. Hwy 131 is a life-line for the residents in Netarts and Oceanside. If this road goes unattended, this is a threat to community health and safety.

If you have any questions, concerns, comments, or suggestions, please contact Mr. Yamamoto at: yamamoto.david@gmail.com.

OCEANSIDE WATERSHED AND WATER

Three letters of support for solutions to the Short Creek and Coleman Creek watershed problems were presented to ONA for adoption. Stimson Lumber Company and Green Crow are the current land owners, of the areas of concern, for clean water supply to the Oceanside. Paul Newman has been working closely with Stimson Lumber Company, to create a working relationship, in hopes that solutions for waste water run-off, spraying, and other drinking water contaminants can be reduced or prohibited. Paul stated that Stimson Lumber Company has agreed to participate in an experiment next year to test for contamination through herbicide spraying. DEQ is the lab testing facility that has monitored the water testing so far. We need to continue to use this facility to continue the monitoring of our drinking water. Paul stressed that it is extremely important to advise Stimson Lumber Company of any communications with other agencies, before submitting proposals, possible solutions, or requests. Green Crow (Quarry owners) has been less cooperative. Without their support or involvement, we could potentially hit a stone wall going forward. Grants are available for watershed assistance. The more grants we receive the more testing can be done.

The Oceanside Clean Water committee have identified potential severe risks for water contamination, including landslides, tsunami, herbicide spraying, and quarry runoff. The common water lines are in the direct path of all afore-mentioned risks. Maps have been prepared to show potential landslide areas that can impact our drinking water. Paul's proposed letter to Meg Thompson would indicate that the ONA supports her effort to effectively initiate conversations with the Oregon Coast National Wildlife Refuge, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services to potentially convert the Short Creek watershed area into a nature conservancy. Meg states there two issues that need to be looked at and addressed. The first issue is to fully understand the requirements of maintaining a nature conservancy and being able to man the project. Jon Wickersham of the North Coast Land Conservancy recommended applying for grants to study what is up there (wildlife, birds, etc.) and how to effectively maintain the forest.

Paul's second proposed letter to the North Coast Land Conservancy addresses the possibility of obtaining an Oregon Resources Department "Place-Based Planning Grant." This grant basically will be a forestry management "blueprint" in guiding us to manage our Short Creek watershed. Meg said Jon Wickersham "who is writing the grant, has gotten a letter from Stimson in support of the grant and they will be a part of this." She added that "I can get you a copy of the letter." Jud said the ONA would not send its letters until Meg produced a copy of the Stimson letter. [It later turned out that the Stimson letter did not exist.]

The final letter is a letter from Paul Newman, OCWC, Judson Randall, ONA, and Charles Ansonage, CMCA to Oregon Coast National Wildlife Refuge Center and North Coast Land Conservancy acknowledging their interest in helping us protect Short Creek and Coleman Creek surface watershed. This letter indicates mapping, potential contaminants, land management expectations, wildlife survey and the intent of conservancy to help protect our surface watershed. As stated before, this letter or any other letter that does not inform Stimson Lumber of the conversation with other agencies can be detrimental to our goal. Since there were not enough people present to represent a quorum, any letters would indicate that they were approved by a consensus of 18 persons present, but that a quorum was 22 persons. This approval is contingent upon Stimson being notified before the letter is sent out. Paul Newman motioned to approve the letter, Kris seconded it, and Tonia Devon opposed. Therefore, 17 approved and 1 opposed. Tonia opposed due to the fact there were not enough people to make it a quorum. Therefore, the letter will not be sent before Stimson is notified and a quorum is reached.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jud announced that Verizon Wireless is considering installing a 180' cell tower on Mount Mears. It was mentioned that the access road location could impact the watershed. It was suggested that we contact Verizon Wireless to make recommendations for the access road. Further discussion will take place after more information is obtained.

Next ONA meeting is on February 6, 2016 at 10 a.m. in the Oceanside Community Center.

CLOSING: meeting was adjourned at 12:04 pm.