

CITIZEN SUBMITTED TESTIMONY

Becca Harth

From: City Hall
Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 3:52 PM
To: Becca Harth
Subject: FW: Comment for City Council Meeting

Kale Hesse
Admin. Assistant I
276 S. Hwy 101
P.O. Box 5
Rockaway Beach, OR 97136
P: 503-374-1752
mhesse@corb.us

From: Jason Maxfield <seaelkcreations@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 3:18 PM
To: City Hall <cityhall@corb.us>
Subject: Comment for City Council Meeting

This question is for the TCSO deputy/representative.

Rockaway Beach has experienced a disturbing pattern of crimes against children being committed by city employees, elected officials, and volunteers over the past decade. On December 19 the Tillamook County Sheriff's Office issued a press release about yet another case, of Rockaway resident and volunteer William Ping, who was arrested for distributing images of child sex abuse.

Thank you to your department for your work on this case. However, in the press release, it was noted that Ping was arrested on October 26, nearly 2 months before the community was notified. During this time, Ping returned to Rockaway, and people were not aware of his crimes. Can you please explain this delay in warning the community about his risk, and also what TCSO's normal policy is for timely communication of information like this is?

Also, the press release your office issued included only a picture of the back of William Ping's head—which was totally insufficient to identify him. Why did TCSO choose to protect Ping's privacy and not release a useful photo, when you do so in other cases, and must have taken better pictures while he was in police custody? And would you please share a better picture of him with our community?

January 11, 2023

Public Comments on Community Outreach

Daniel Howlett 132 N Grayling St

Happy New Year everyone, I wanted to officially welcome our new Mayor Charles McNeally and I was planning to welcome new councilor Cindy Kay Gregory, but sadly she won't be able to serve for health reasons. This is a big loss for our town, her sweet spirit and positivity will be missed.

We have a lot to be excited about this year! The Salmonberry Trail project is moving forward. Rockaway Beach was awarded \$1.7M in grant funding, which will result in the creation of a 10-12 foot paved trail through town. This biking and walking path will have a huge impact for generations to come. I'd like to see some community outreach for this important project.

Another cool project is the Lake Lydell Boat Ramp. The city is actively working on community outreach to plan the future of this space. The citizens have a chance to fill out a questionnaire and share their thoughts and ideas so that everyone has a fair say in what it ultimately looks like. There is a community workshop planned on February 22nd.

Another project coming up is the Anchor Street Parking Lot. For those of you who don't know, this is the city owned empty gravel lot located between the grocery store and the fire station. The current plan calls for paving it, adding public bathrooms, EV charging stations, and some other amenities. Come on now, we can do better. It's already a parking lot, and it sits empty most of the time, unless it's the 4th of July weekend. There's already a

public bathroom and parking at the Wayside close by and it's about to get remodeled. So, do the taxpayers really have to pay for two brand new public bathrooms downtown? The Anchor street lot has a prime walkable downtown location, with a ton of possibilities. The city comprehensive plan calls for more construction of commercial and multi-family buildings. Imagine a cool food cart space, a commercial building, or some much needed affordable housing, or countless other possibilities. Last year, Rockaway leaders failed to consult the community about this project. Please push pause and give us the same outreach, workshop, and questionnaire as the Lake Lydell project. We deserve the opportunity to weigh in and share our ideas. We want community outreach for ALL city projects.

If the city is dead set on building parking lots, a much better use of taxpayer money would be expanding the parking lot at the big tree boardwalk. The city seriously underestimated its popularity, and didn't plan appropriately for parking. Don't get me wrong, the big tree project is a huge win for our town. Thank you to the citizens who had the foresight to preserve this natural wonder for future generations.

We need to build on this legacy of conservation and expand our protection to other natural spaces, as recommended by the city comprehensive plan. For example, the Jetty Creek Watershed, where we get our drinking water, is now over 90% clear cut and sprayed with pesticides. This is unacceptable. We need to buy it and let it regenerate. Let's be honest, the city should have bought it years ago. Luckily, with the passage of the Federal Infrastructure bill last year, there is grant funding available to start

the process. A healthy forest enhances the local natural beauty and provides cleaner safer drinking water for generations to come. Instead of clearcuts, imagine a diverse coastal forest above town with hiking, bird watching, biking paths, and other recreational opportunities. The thing is, Rockaway forests are worth more for tourism dollars than for 2x4's.

Regarding the 10 acre high-ground parcel: Yes, let's buy it, and then please consult with the community to find the highest and best use.

There is so much to do. We need to restart the Parks and Rec. Department and merge the Chamber of Commerce with the Merchants Association together so that our business community speaks with a united voice. And we need to re-evaluate the bullshit water/sewer fees to make it fair for all residents.

To develop the next generation of leaders, we need to restart our local citizen committees and engage and inspire young people, who have more energy and vision. All of us, but especially young people, have huge potential to impact the future of Rockaway Beach.

As our new leaders, I respectfully ask that you engage more with the community, get local opinions, and make it transparent. Please. We want town hall style meetings, follow up, and access to more meetings via Zoom. Digitize all city records, and post everything online. Build community trust by encouraging public oversight, transparency, and accountability. So much to do, but it will be fun volunteering and getting to know more people in

town. We are so lucky to live at the coast, let's work together to chart the future for the next generation. I'm excited for 2023!

Thank you.