

CITIZEN SUBMITTED TESTIMONY

Becca Harth

From: City Manager
Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 11:10 AM
To: Becca Harth
Subject: FW: one other point - STR

From: Steve Drury <steve.drury@tabfocuseddirections.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 11:04 AM
To: City Manager <citymanager@corb.us>
Cc: Laura Drury <laura.drury@tabfocuseddirections.com>; Steve Drury <steve.drury@tabfocuseddirections.com>
Subject: one other point - STR

Luke,

Please enter the following email into the City Council meeting as well.

In addition to the fees for registration of a STR (a fee that the city does not collect on unregistered STR owners), there is also a tax placed on the rental income generated by registered STR owners (a tax that the city does not collect on unregistered STR owners). Please take all of this into account when deciding whether or not concern ourselves with those STR owners who are not registered. Thank you.



Steve

Dr. Steve Drury, President/Owner
TAB Certified Facilitator
Executive Business Coach

303 916 1555

Steve.Drury@TABFocusedDirections.com
www.TABFocusedDirections.com



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From: City Manager <citymanager@corb.us>
Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 11:48 AM
To: Steve Drury <steve.drury@tabfocuseddirections.com>
Cc: Laura Drury <laura.drury@tabfocuseddirections.com>
Subject: RE: STR registration fees

Mr. Drury,

I will have your email included as public testimony for the May 10th, 2023, regular City Council meeting. Any subsequent testimony can be emailed to Cityhall@corb.us, Subject: Citizen Input for Upcoming City Council Meeting.

Respectfully,

Dear Mayor and City Council Members,

This concerns me (see below).

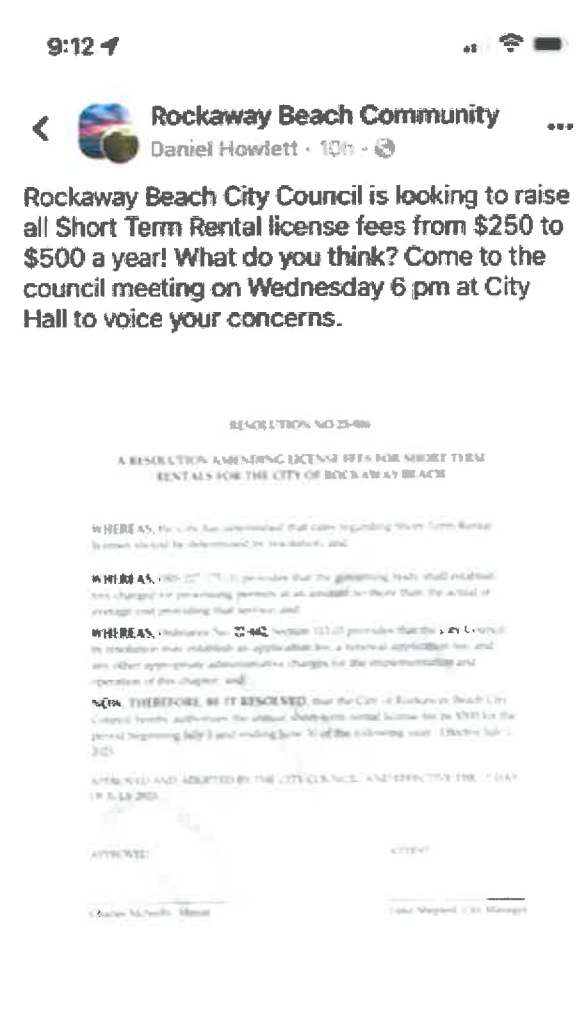
I am a property owner and pay taxes and STR fees to Rockaway Beach. There are quite a few who are not registered and do not follow the rules AND do rent out their place to STR.

Rather than raise the fees those who do follow the rules, how about enforcing the current rules. I imagine that will bring in more income than the proposal below.

Please let me know your thoughts.

Thank you.

Steve Drury



Becca Harth

From: City Manager
Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 8:19 AM
To: Becca Harth
Cc: Lana Ward
Subject: FW: STR fee increase

Becca,

Please include this email in Citizen Testimony for the May 10 CC meeting.

Luke Shepard, City Manager

City of Rockaway Beach

P.O. Box 5 | Rockaway Beach, Oregon 97136

P: 503.374.1752 / C: 503.457.6418 citymanager@CORB.us

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From: Lana Ward <ward_lana@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 5:43 PM
To: City Manager <citymanager@corb.us>
Subject: STR fee increase

Dear City Manager,

I am out of town having rotator cuff repair....can you read this at the meeting?

Please don't raise the STR fee or Please at least consider a Tier Fee.

I work at the post office. I live in the townhouses across the street. I rent a bed on the weekend to help cover my expenses so I can live in the area and work for the community.

I don't make much on the rental but it keeps me from transferring to another area.

I only rent it for about 12 weekends in the summer at around \$60-85 dollars a night. \$500.00 for a STR fee will take me 4 weekends in June to pay for it.

Last week, my rental couple said they spent 600.00 in Rockaway Beach. Souvenirs on main Street, all meals eaten on main Street and even used the laundromat.

I feel that since I rent a bed out in the home that I live in....I should be considered for a fee reduction over someone renting an entire home. I feel our town needs STRs to bring in income to the businesses.

Thanks for your consideration

Lana Ward
Resident
Worker
Voter

Rockaway Beach Anchor Street and Wayside Projected Costs

12 messages

Daniel Howlett <danielhowlett@gmail.com>

Thu, Apr 6, 2023 at 2:52 PM

To: Luke Shepard <Lukeshepard@corb.us>

Cc: Mary McGinnis <marymcginniscitycouncil@gmail.com>, Kristine Hayes <kristineforrockaway@gmail.com>, tmartine13719@gmail.com, Penny Cheek <pennycheek@live.com>, alesiafrankenrbcitycouncil@gmail.com, Charles McNeilly <charlesforrockawaybeachmayor@gmail.com>, umazee73 <umazee73@comcast.net>, steph@goducks.com, olsonrl@centurylink.net, Sandra Johnson <s.l.johnson2021@gmail.com>, billh <billh@billhassell.com>, ktwodia@gmail.com, g_and_j@charter.net

Bcc: Jason Maxfield <jasmax@pdx.edu>, headlightreporter@countrymedia.net

Hello City Manager Shepard,

Please add this public testimony to the April council meeting, along with the 3 attachments from the city transportation plan and city comprehensive plan.

I saw on the city website that the proposed Anchor Street project cost estimate is \$684,684. The proposed Wayside beach access project cost estimate is \$847,968. Together, \$1,532,652 for both projects is extremely expensive and based on the 2010 Transportation Plan, there are 13 other higher priority projects that the citizens want to see completed first. See attached priorities list page A-168 of the transportation plan.

Anchor Street currently is a gravel parking lot that already functions as a parking lot, and it goes unused for the majority of the year. In the 2010 transportation plan, no citizens voted to prioritize paving the city lot, back when the cost was \$165K. Now it's \$684,684. See attached 2010 cost estimate.

It would be reasonable to gather evidence first to substantiate the need for more parking downtown before moving forward. A parking study could be done with an inexpensive car counting system. The planning process should be based on data, not speculation. Why spend \$685k to fulfill this unsupported need?

Within both proposals, the largest expenses are the public restrooms, \$330k for Anchor street and over \$420k for the Wayside. Why spend \$330k to build restrooms at Anchor Street when there are already public restrooms available inside City Hall, directly across the street? There are also public restrooms at the Wayside, 1 block away, a short 0.2 mile walk. Why spend \$440k plus to demolish the existing Wayside restrooms to build new ones? Why not instead remodel the public restrooms we already have at the Wayside at a fraction of the cost?

Unlike the Lake Lytle project, neither Anchor street nor the Wayside project have had any public input, no planning commission involvement, no public workshop, no online surveys, and no public discussion of alternatives or highest and best uses for these spaces, which is contrary to planning guidelines in the city comprehensive plan. See

attached pages from the comp plan. Why is the council giving these projects special treatment?

The landslide election in November demonstrated that the voters want change, transparency, and accountability. I respectfully ask that the council please consider these reasonable steps:

1. Push pause on these projects and get the planning commission involved.
2. Implement a parking study to track parking counts this summer to quantify the need.
3. Get a cost estimate to remodel the existing Wayside restrooms for comparison.
4. Host a public workshop to get citizen input before moving forward.
5. Consider starting an urban renewal committee.

Please respond with your feedback, answers, or thoughts.

Cheers,

Daniel Howlett
132 N Grayling St

3 attachments

 **Citizen Priorities Transportation Plan.pdf**
224K

 **Anchor lot paving cost \$165K.pdf**
246K

 **Comp Plan - Planning Process.pdf**
90K

City Manager <citymanager@corb.us>
To: Daniel Howlett <danielhowlett@gmail.com>

Thu, Apr 6, 2023 at 3:08 PM

Daniel Howlett,

Thank you for your submission. It will be included in the record copy and online under citizen testimony.

Best,

Luke Shepard, City Manager

City of Rockaway Beach

P.O. Box 5 | Rockaway Beach, Oregon 97136

P: 503.374.1752 / C: 503.457.6418 citymanager@CORB.us

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Daniel Howlett <danielhowlett@gmail.com>

Wed, Apr 19, 2023 at 10:08 AM

To: City Manager <citymanager@corb.us>

Cc: Mary McGinnis <marymcginniscitycouncil@gmail.com>, Kristine Hayes <kristineforrockaway@gmail.com>, tmartine13719@gmail.com, Penny Cheek <pennycheek@live.com>, alesiafrankenrbcitycouncil@gmail.com, Charles McNeilly <charlesforrockawaybeachmayor@gmail.com>

Mr Shepard,

I'm following up on my written testimony submitted on April 6th for the April 12th council meeting. You responded on 4/6 to say that my comments would be included "in the record copy and online under citizen testimony." However, it's been a week after the council meeting and they still have not. My public testimony was submitted 2 weeks ago tomorrow. What is the point of submitting public testimony if it's not made public? Why weren't my comments included in the council packet or added to the council documents online prior to the meeting? Did I miss the deadline to have my comments included? Or is there some other reason why my testimony has not been made public yet?

If you would, please let me know what is the official city protocol and proper timing for posting citizen testimony and public meetings. Last month the 3/16 planning commission meeting wasn't posted online until 4/3, almost 3 weeks later. My inquiries about this went unanswered. Are there legal requirements to make public information public within a specific timeframe? Public officials omitting or delaying public testimony could be interpreted as a violation of first amendment rights which could lead to another costly lawsuit against the city. Would you please explain?

Cheers,

Daniel

Daniel Howlett
Earth Advantage Broker
Premiere Property Group, LLC
Vintage Home Realty LLC
www.vintagehomerealty.com
(503) 545-1968

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Kristine Hayes <kristineforrockaway@gmail.com>

Wed, Apr 19, 2023 at 10:15 AM

To: Daniel Howlett <danielhowlett@gmail.com>

Thank you Daniel,

I don't want you to think that I'm ignoring you I am not. I've had my own struggles with the city in the last week, and I nearly quit yesterday. To top it off I'm really busy at work and I really have to focus there right now. I will be in touch though I'm interested to see what kind of response to get.

Kristine

On Apr 19, 2023, at 10:09 AM, Daniel Howlett <danielhowlett@gmail.com> wrote:

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City Manager <citymanager@corb.us>

Thu, Apr 20, 2023 at 3:14 PM

To: Daniel Howlett <danielhowlett@gmail.com>

Cc: Mary McGinnis <marymcginniscitycouncil@gmail.com>, Kristine Hayes <kristineforrockaway@gmail.com>, "tmartine13719@gmail.com" <tmartine13719@gmail.com>, Penny Cheek <pennycheek@live.com>, "alesiafrankenrbcitycouncil@gmail.com" <alesiafrankenrbcitycouncil@gmail.com>, Charles McNeilly <charlesforrockawaybeachmayor@gmail.com>

Mr. Howlett,

Your testimony was posted online prior to the meeting and remains so. The City accepts citizen testimony through 4PM the day of the meeting.

Thank you for staying engaged with the City of Rockaway Beach.

[Quoted text hidden]

Daniel Howlett <danielhowlett@gmail.com>

Fri, Apr 28, 2023 at 9:47 AM

To: City Manager <citymanager@corb.us>

Cc: Mary McGinnis <marymcginniscitycouncil@gmail.com>, Kristine Hayes <kristineforrockaway@gmail.com>, "tmartine13719@gmail.com" <tmartine13719@gmail.com>, Penny Cheek <pennycheek@live.com>, "alesiafrankenrbcitycouncil@gmail.com" <alesiafrankenrbcitycouncil@gmail.com>, Charles McNeilly <charlesforrockawaybeachmayor@gmail.com>

Mr Shepard,

Yes, you did "except" my public testimony. Would you please show proof that my testimony was posted prior to the council meeting as you said? Looking at the city website, there is a section called Citizen Testimony that includes my testimony but it was only posted 1 week after the council meeting the day I complained. If you have information to the contrary, please provide it.

I see that the 4/20 Planning Commission meeting is still not posted online, 10 days late.

What are the rules of timing for posting meetings online?
What are the rules of timing for posting citizen testimony online?

Cheers,

Daniel

Daniel Howlett
Earth Advantage Broker
Premiere Property Group, LLC
Vintage Home Realty LLC
www.vintagehomerealty.com
(503) 545-1968

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Mary McGinnis <marymcginniscitycouncil@gmail.com>

Sat, Apr 29, 2023 at 10:38 AM

To: Daniel Howlett <danielhowlett@gmail.com>

Cc: City Manager <citymanager@corb.us>, Kristine Hayes <kristineforrockaway@gmail.com>, tmartine13719@gmail.com, Penny Cheek <pennycheek@live.com>, alesiafrankenrbcitycouncil@gmail.com, Charles McNeilly <charlesforrockawaybeachmayor@gmail.com>

Daniel, the City Council makes the rules for City Council meetings, including public comment either oral or written. The City Council adopts the rules as an ordinance.

The City Manager doesn't make the rules concerning City Council meetings and comments. Neither does the Mayor. Both of them follow the meeting rules set by the City Council.

We are currently amending our City Council Meeting rules. We will probably have a more finalized draft of the new rules at our May meeting.

Please send me suggestions for written comments that you would like for the City Council to consider.

Mary

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Mary McGinnis <marymcginniscitycouncil@gmail.com> Sat, Apr 29, 2023 at 10:45 AM
To: Daniel Howlett <danielhowlett@gmail.com>
Cc: City Manager <citymanager@corb.us>, Kristine Hayes <kristineforrockaway@gmail.com>, "tmartine13719@gmail.com" <tmartine13719@gmail.com>, Penny Cheek <pennycheek@live.com>, "alesiafrankenrbcitycouncil@gmail.com" <alesiafrankenrbcitycouncil@gmail.com>, Charles McNeilly <charlesforrockawaybeachmayor@gmail.com>

Daniel,

I sent another email replying to this, but I will restate it here.

The City Manager doesn't make the rules for either City Council Meetings or Planning Commission meetings, including what to do with comments. The City Manager and Mayor follow procedures for City Council/Planning Commission meetings, including comments, established by the City Council. The City Council is currently updating the rules.

Mary McGinnis

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Charles McNeilly <charlesforrockawaybeachmayor@gmail.com> Mon, May 1, 2023 at 6:48 AM
To: Daniel Howlett <danielhowlett@gmail.com>
Cc: Luke Shepard <citymanager@corb.us>, Kristine Hayes <kristineforrockaway@gmail.com>, Tom Martine <tmartine13719@gmail.com>, Penny Cheek <pennycheek@live.com>, Alesia Franken <alesiafrankenrbcitycouncil@gmail.com>, Mary McGinnis <marymcginniscitycouncil@gmail.com>

Mr. Howlett ...

Unfortunately previous City Councils have not provided the City Staff with clear service levels for posting meeting materials, written public comment, meeting videos, etc. As Councilor McGinnis stated these service levels will be part of the updated Council Policy and Procedures ... a work in progress. I also expect City Council will address service levels associated with Planning Commission meetings and other committees formed by the Council.

As for your request that City Manager Shepard provide proof of when your comment was posted, that becomes irrelevant based on no clear instructions as to when these need to be posted. .

Respectfully,
Mayor McNeilly

Charles McNeilly
Mayor
City of Rockaway Beach
small town, big beach
503-641-8437
charlesforrockawaybeachmayor@gmail.com

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Daniel Howlett <danielhowlett@gmail.com>

Tue, May 2, 2023 at 10:27 AM

To: Charles McNeilly <charlesforrockawaybeachmayor@gmail.com>

Cc: Luke Shepard <citymanager@corb.us>, Kristine Hayes <kristineforrockaway@gmail.com>, Tom Martine <tmartine13719@gmail.com>, Penny Cheek <pennycheek@live.com>, Alesia Franken <alesiafrankenrbcitycouncil@gmail.com>, Mary McGinnis <marymcginniscitycouncil@gmail.com>

Hello city manager, mayor, and councilors,

Thank you for your responses. It seems like there is a discrepancy and misunderstanding as to when my public testimony was made public. I appreciate your explanation and I understand that the public comment rules are being updated soon. However, the word "updated" implies that there are current procedures as to how public comments are handled.

Please see the attached public record requests. Perhaps by understanding the facts, we can better communicate about this subject.

Cheers,

Daniel

Daniel Howlett
Earth Advantage Broker
Premiere Property Group, LLC
Vintage Home Realty LLC
www.vintagehomerealty.com
(503) 545-1968

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2 attachments

 **Public Records Request 1.pdf**
245K

 **Public Records Requist 2.pdf**
294K

Mary McGinnis <marymcginniscitycouncil@gmail.com>

Wed, May 3, 2023 at 9:30 AM

To: Daniel Howlett <danielhowlett@gmail.com>

Cc: Charles McNeilly <charlesforrockawaybeachmayor@gmail.com>, Luke Shepard <citymanager@corb.us>, Kristine Hayes <kristineforrockaway@gmail.com>, Tom Martine <tmartine13719@gmail.com>, Penny Cheek <pennycheek@live.com>, Alesia Franken <alesiafrankenrbcitycouncil@gmail.com>

Daniel,

The current rules for City Council meetings are created in an Ordinance (Ord. 07-403, passed 10-24-2007) and posted publicly on the City website. Anyone in the community can see them. They are found on the website at the bottom of the page under "City Codes and Ordinances". Again, it is public information for anyone to see.

Here is a direct link:

https://codelibrary.amlegal.com/codes/rockawaybeach/latest/rockaway_or/0-0-0-533#JD_33.11

Go to "Mechanics of Meetings" to find City Council meeting policies.

As stated earlier the rules and "Mechanics of Meetings" are the purview/scope of the City Council, not the City Manager. All testimony, written or verbal, are part of the "Mechanics of Meetings".

Mary McGinnis

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Mon, May 8, 2023 at 11:04 AM

Daniel Howlett <danielhowlett@gmail.com>

To: Mary McGinnis <marymcginniscitycouncil@gmail.com>

Cc: Charles McNeilly <charlesforrockawaybeachmayor@gmail.com>, Luke Shepard <citymanager@corb.us>, Kristine Hayes <kristineforrockaway@gmail.com>, Tom Martine <tmartine13719@gmail.com>, Penny Cheek <pennycheek@live.com>, Alesia Franken <alesiafrankenrbcitycouncil@gmail.com>

Unfortunately, Becca Harth at the city responded that there is no document to prove when my public testimony was made public. See the city response to my public records requests attached. How can this be? Surely, there is an email from Mr Shepard forwarding on my testimony. I ask the city council to please direct the city staff to provide the email proof of when exactly my public testimony was made public. I look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you Mary for clarifying the city meeting rules. If you look at the details, Oregon law ORS 192.6500 requires that all minutes or recordings shall be available to the public within a reasonable time after the meeting. The 3/16 Planning Commission meeting was not posted online until April 3rd, 17 days late. The 4/20 Planning Commission meeting still has not been posted as of today, May 8th, 18 days late. Failure to make a public meeting video public for over 2 weeks does not sound reasonable to me.

Cheers,

Daniel

Daniel Howlett
Earth Advantage Broker
Premiere Property Group, LLC
Vintage Home Realty LLC
www.vintagehomerealty.com
(503) 545-1968

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122K