

OCTOBER 2011 PLANNING REPORT

1 - General Comments

Coastal Networking Meeting

This year's annual Coastal Networking Meeting was held in conjunction with an Oregon Coastal Zone Management Association meeting. Councilor Xavier was the City's OCZMA representative. The two-day meeting held at the Florence Event Center on Oct. 13 and 14 was an opportunity for city planners to share with each other and learn more about national and state efforts affecting coastal communities. Community Development Director Sandra Belson, Senior Planner Wendy Farley, and Assistant Planner Michelle Pezley all had the opportunity to attend portions of the meeting. Sandra was a panelist on a session entitled, "Planning Projects Showcase – Local Bike and Pedestrian Projects". Wendy and Public Works Director Mike Miller provided information for her presentation.

Ford Leadership

In January, Michelle Pezley, Assistant Planner, was nominated and accepted in this year's Ford Institute Leadership Program as the City's representative. After four weekends of training on how to work in a group and on project management, the class chose to work on



revitalization of Mapleton's popular Outdoor Basketball Court. The Court is located on the Mapleton School District property, south of the Elementary School.

The class refers to themselves as Siuslaw Communities Action Network (SCAN). SCAN was assigned with project scope, project promotion, fund raising, and volunteer recruitment. SCAN took two Saturdays to repaint the building inside and out. Mr. Mitch Williams, a general contractor from Mapleton, volunteered his time and equipment to fix



the dry rot, add the rain gutters and paint the under the roof. The team received three bird houses in hopes to relocate the birds that were living in the building. The basketball backboards were repainted by a local auto body shop. Finally, the team was able to raise enough funding to pay for an electrician to add lighting to the building. The lighting has a motion sensor which will turn off at 10pm.

As the Public Relations (PR) committee chairperson, Michelle was responsible for updating the steering committee on the subcommittee's progress, creating agendas, and running the subcommittee meetings. Michelle learned most about how different personalities affect group dynamics and what personal adjustments are needed to make the group work effectively. For example, whereas she finds it easy to offer a complement or give thanks, a few in the class did not know how to give thanks to a co-worker or complement a job well done.

During the process, one of the PR team members was frustrated with the process and other members of SCAN and voiced that he was considering dropping out. Michelle was able to see the problem and encourage the member to finish the program.



On October 15, 2011, SCAN celebrated and thanked those who helped with the project during a ribbon cutting ceremony. The Director of Family Ford Foundation commented that SCAN completed their project in the shortest amount of time of any class.

County Co-Adoption

The Board of County Commissioners held its first reading in the “Matter of Adopting a Revised Chapter 14: Urbanization, Annexation Policies, Policy 1 for the Florence Realization 2020 Comprehensive Plan . . .” on November 2 and set the second reading and public hearing for Tuesday, November 22 at 1:30 pm. The ordinance includes the policy language as recommended by the Lane County Planning Commission. Commissioner Bozievich indicated that the County will utilize the video-conferencing facility at the Justice Center in Florence for that public hearing.

Church on the Rock

In response to a referral from Lane County, staff provided comments on an application for Site Review of a new church to be constructed on the west side of Hwy 101.

Recreational Trail Program

On October 28th city staff submitted a “Notice of Intent” (NOI) to apply for funding to the Oregon State Parks Recreational Trails Program. Three projects were included in the NOI and the city awaits confirmation from ODOT for partial matching funds to determine which of the prospective projects to apply for.

1. *Rhododendron Drive Multi-Use Path* -- \$1,440,000

A 10’ wide, 8560 ft. long multi-use paved path east of Rhododendron Drive from 9th St. to 35th St. Improves a link in the Oregon Coast Trail that starts at North Jetty Road and extends to Highway 101.

2. *Siuslaw Estuary Trailhead* -- \$432,044

Property acquisition and development of a 10’ wide 416’ long, multi-use paved path connecting Gallagher Park and Munsel Creek trail systems north of Hwy 126 to the Estuary Trailhead location south of Hwy 126 continuing through property south of Hwy 126 along Munsel Creek.



3. *City of Florence Trail Marketing and Education program*--\$10,000

A Trail System promotion program that includes 10 wayfinding signs for 3 trail systems, webpage and brochure development and publishing (focused on trail routes and connections, “rules of the trail”, healthy benefits, and adopt a trail marketing program).

2 - Current and Recently Approved Land Use Applications

With Michelle helping out with the processing of building permits and Wendy Farley and Michelle taking turns sitting at the front desk, the City contracted with Melissa Anderson to help with the processing of two current planning applications: Extension of Approval of Cannery Station Planned Unit Development and Conditional Use Permit for a Single-Family Residence in the Commercial Zone.

APPLICATION NAME	APPLICATION #	LOCATION	STATUS
Administrative Design Review for a new awning on the Grape Leaf	AR 11 02 DR 03	1269 Bay Street	Staff granted a design review approval for the awning on Oct. 21 st .
Administrative Design Review for a new storage building at the Wastewater Treatment Plant	AR 11 06 DR 05	650 Rhododendron Drive	The public comment period closed and staff is currently preparing a decision.
Administrative Design Review and Variance for a new Dialysis Clinic	AR 11 08 DR 07 PC 11 11 VAR 01	North of Dr. Holmes Dentist Clinic on Kingwood Street; lot 39 in the Pacific View Business Park	After holding a public hearing on Oct. 11, the Planning Commission granted a variance of the 20-foot landscaped buffer to a 5-foot landscaped buffer and approved the site review with conditions of approval.
Extension of Approval of Cannery Station Planned Unit Development	PC 11 12 EAP 02	17 acres at the southwest corner of Highway 101 and Munsel Lake Road	The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Nov. 22, 2011.
Conditional Use Permit for a single family residence in the Commercial District, replacing the house destroyed by fire with a house more than 25% larger than what was there before the fire	PC 11 13 CUP 03	1738 20th Street	The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Nov. 22, 2011.

3 – Committees and Grants

This section of the Community Development monthly report describes activities of committees and progress on grant-funded projects.

CITY COMMITTEES STAFFED BY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Environmental Management Advisory Committee (EMAC), *Wendy Farley*
October 20th Regular Meeting – EMAC worked on the content for a Greener Florence education flyer to be included in the Business License Renewal mail-out scheduled for the end of November. They also reviewed new state building code related to Solid Waste Disposal for RV Parks (two in City limits), debriefed the Household Hazardous Waste event and discussed the City Hall recycling center's new location. The Committee also reviewed the Request for Proposals and Scope of Work for the Independent Rate Review Consultant. The RFP was posted to the City's website on October 20th and closes on November 10th. Some members stayed after the meeting and worked collaboratively on the new recycling page on the city's website.

Next Meeting –The next EMAC meeting is scheduled for November 17th and will include topics such as: Update on the applicants for the independent consultant for financial materials review, Greener Florence November business license mail-out, 2010 Opportunity to Recycle report results, and continuation of recycling webpage design.

Parks and Recreation Committee, *Wendy Farley and Mike Miller*

Council decided to suspend soliciting committee members due to the limited response and the delay in developing a parks capital improvement plan.

Planning Commission, *Sandra Belson*

On October 11th the Planning Commission held a public hearing and approved design review and variance for the Dialysis Clinic.

At its meeting on Nov. 8, the Planning Commission will start to become familiar with transportation planning by viewing a powerpoint presentation on recent bicycle and pedestrian projects in Florence and by watching a video on the difference between a road and a street. The Commissioners will then review the quasi-judicial public hearing process.

The Commission is scheduled to hold two public hearings on November 22nd, one for an extension on the Cannery Station PUD and one for a conditional use for a single-family residence in the Commercial zone.

GRANT FUNDED PROJECTS

Update Transportation System Plan (TSP), Community Transit Plan, and Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for transportation improvements

Transportation & Growth Management (TGM) Grant managed by Sandra Belson

\$155,000 - *joint program of DLCD and Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), financed in part by federal Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) and State funds*

The next meeting of the Transportation Project Advisory Committee (PAC) is scheduled for Thursday, November 10. At that meeting, the Committee will review facility standards; past and future transportation financing; and begin discussion of plan policies and development code amendments. The PAC is also invited to join the Planning Commission at its meeting on November 8 for the transportation-related agenda items. For more information, check out the project website at <http://sites.kittelson.com./FlorenceTSP>.

Siuslaw Estuary Partnership

West Coast Estuaries Initiative for Coastal Watersheds managed by Sandra Belson
\$566,797 - *United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)*

The Siuslaw Estuary Partnership is a collaborative effort to protect and improve water quality and fish and wildlife habitat in the lower Siuslaw River Watershed. The public web site contains the most recent products from the project: www.siuslawwaters.org

Staff submitted the required semi-annual reports to the EPA.

Project Elements Update:

- I. **SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION:** The Interdisciplinary Team continued to provide staff support for the project.

- II. **PUBLIC EDUCATION AND STEWARDSHIP:** On Friday afternoon, October 28, the Siuslaw Estuary Partnership hosted a Discovery Tour as part of the Heceta Head Coastal Conference, *Oregon's Ocean: Catching the Next Wave of Discoveries*. Unlike last year, this year's Tour was out in the field, even if it was to rain. Fortunately there was no rain making it an enjoyable experience for the 40 registrants. Senior Planner Wendy Farley organized the Tour. Below are the topics and speakers for each of the stations:

- **The Role of the Siuslaw Estuary Partnership:** Overview of Mission, Projects and Partners. Sandra Belson, Siuslaw Estuary Partnership Project Manager and Community Development Director, City of Florence.



- **Stormwater Treatment:** Stormwater treatment demonstration sites proposed along the waterfront in Old Town. Dan Graber, Water Treatment Supervisor, City of Florence.

- **Siuslaw River History:** Walking tour of Old Town waterfront learning about the historic uses of the Siuslaw River. Fred Jensen, Curator, Siuslaw Pioneer History Museum.



- **Estuary Ecology:** Field Tour to learn about the estuary subsystems and the plant and animal life dependent within different zones within those subsystems. Jason Kirchner, Estuary Habitat Protection Biologist, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

- **Wetlands Exploration:** Field Tour to learn about the estuary plants and their habitats. Jevra Brown, Wetland Specialist, Department of State Lands.

- III. **WATER QUALITY AND QUANTITY:** The Water Quality and Quantity Team met on October 5 to review recent test results and discuss possible next steps. GSI Water Solutions, a consultant on this project, released its annual report that presents and analyzing all of the surface and groundwater test results. To review the report, check out the project website at http://www.siuslawwaters.org/shop/images/gsi_technical_memo_annual_sw_gw_monitoring_report. This meeting expanded in staff involvement to become the first meeting of the Aquifer Protection Plan Technical Advisory Committee.
- IV. **WETLANDS AND RIPARIAN AREAS PLAN:** To provide additional resources for this effort, City staff applied for and has been offered a Technical Assistance grant from Coastal Program of the Department of Land Conservation and Development. City and state staff have been working on details for the scope of work for this grant. Council will decide whether or not accept this grant at its meeting on Monday, Nov. 7.
- V. **KEY ESTUARY WETLANDS:** The Siuslaw Watershed Council (SWC) and sub-contractors (McKenzie River Trust (MRT), Green Point Consulting (GPC), and Habitat Contracting (HC)) continue to make progress on the Key Estuary Wetlands component. The North Fork Marsh Management Plan for use by McKenzie River Trust (the landowner) has been completed, published, and shared with funders and partners. On Waite Ranch, GPC continued with analysis of monitoring data. Trained volunteers continue to collect water quality and invasive species data. The partners and sub-contractors continued to work on project development. GPC, MRT, HC, and SWC staff continue to communicate with technical partners about future potential data needs and analysis of design options. The SWC continues to manage sub-contractors and facilitate Key Estuary Wetland Team communication at the SWC's Technical Team meetings. Work associated with the North Fork Marsh and the Waite

Ranch Restoration Site is funded by the SEP-EPA, WWRI, ODFW R&E, OWEB, and other sources.

- VI. ECOLOGICAL GROWTH: Staff has incorporated the stormwater and related amendments approved by Council into the Florence Realization 2020 Comprehensive Plan, City Code, and Stormwater Design Manual. The Stormwater Management Plan still needs to be updated with the approved amendments.

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