Re: Foredune Management Plan

First, we wish to express our gratitude for your time and effort in this important endeavor. We have listened to all the testimony and read all of the comments, and while it will not be an easy task, we are sure you will be objective and open-minded as you approach your deliberations, considering what is good for the overall community.

We are supplementing our earlier comments (D-16 Gregg and Sabrina Barton, September 12, 2019), supporting managed dune grading at Ocean Avenue, to emphasize and clarify some common misstatements.

First, we can only speak responsibly with respect to Ocean Avenue. We have listened to conflicting testimony about the access issues at Breakers Point. We simply hope that the Council will try to accommodate access for everyone regardless of age, health, mobility, etc. It is great that many find access not to be a problem, but no one should dismiss those that claim to have access problems.

However, at Ocean Avenue, we have heard, and wish to respond, to some misstatements. Contrary to a number of statements, including those in the Friends of the Dune’s petition, the dunes do not “belong to the State of Oregon.” As set forth in more detail in Mike Morgan’s submission (D-46 Mike Morgan, September 19, 2019), the dunes at Ocean Avenue are privately owned – yet there are no “no trespassing signs anywhere.”

Similarly, it may be clever to proclaim that “dune grading for views” must be stopped, pointing to the scoundrel “self-concerned property owners” (see Friends of the Dune’s website), the five-percenters, etc., but it is without doubt that the Ocean Avenue views are enjoyed by THOUSANDS of people each year, including those with limited mobility who simply cannot get to the beach no matter how much they wish they could. (D-33 Cathy Filgas, September 15, 2019 “Hundreds and hundreds of locals and visitors use this street every day;” and D-46 Mike Morgan, September 19, 2019 “Over the course of the summer thousands of people walk or drive along Ocean Avenue.”) The Ocean Avenue views are their respite, their serenity, the beauty they enjoy, just as others enjoy the beach. For reasons that are unclear to us, those people ostensibly asserting equality for all in fact are asking this Council to deny these thousands of people the views they come to Cannon Beach to enjoy. The Ocean Avenue homeowners do not have a monopoly on those views, because Ocean Avenue lies BETWEEN their homes and the beach -- everyone gets the benefit of those views.
It is unfathomable to us that the Council would consider cutting off the city from these views. Imagine walking down Ocean Avenue and instead of eyeing the majesty of Haystack Rock, the beach and Tillamook Head, or the beautiful sunsets, all the walker could see is a 20- or 30-foot wall of sand towering over them. We implore the Council not to experiment with a good thing. You are facing an important, long-term decision that cannot be easily reversed, and we hope that you will continue to permit MANAGED dune grading.

Finally, a last comment about the Friends of the Dunes petition. It appears to have a significant number of signatures, but by whom? The signers were solicited across the world on the Internet with some clever propositions. They were not asked to identify their interest in Cannon Beach, whether they had ever visited, or to give their mailing address. We ask that you do your best to evaluate all the testimony and written comments objectively, responsibly and rationally when making your decision.

Thank you again for your work,

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