Dianna Turner
Oral Testimony 9/12/19 FMP

Hello, I am Dianna Turner and a member of Friends of the Dunes. I and our group have no financial interest in this issue. Our views are solely those of concerned community members.

Though dune-grading for view enhancement has been a divisive issue since it’s inception, our group began watchdogging the dune grading of our state-owned lands in 2014.

After these five years we know that now is the time to end dune-grading for view enhancement in CB.

Though a lot of time has been spent looking at the science around dune grading, we believe the heart of this issue is one of equity.

What is fair and just, what’s equitable for our whole community.

According to the City’s Short-term Rental Report there are 1,812 housing units.

According to Jeff Adams there are 90 housing units within BP and the Presidential STs’ Beachfront homes.

So, these 90 homes, that are currently allowed to dune grade, equal a little less that 5% of homes in Cannon Beach.

Bulldozing our dunes to benefit only this 5% minority who want a better ocean view from inside their homes in not fair or just.

In a nutshell, there is no community benefit to dune grading.

It is not equitable to:
*Those who enjoy the beach, and it’s spectacular views, from the beach.
*Or to our valuable visitors that Cannon Beach’s economy needs.

*Nor to we neighbors who's houses are hit by waves of sand when grading occurs.

*Or to everyone who’s left more vulnerable to storms and flooding after the loss of our protective dunes.

*It’s not equitable to the plants and animals who are living in the existing dunal eco-system.

*And don’t forget the razor clams who’ve been repeatedly drown at the tideline.

*It’s not even fair to CP who's not allowed to grade but is affected by their neighbors' grading.

I implore you, and the Friends of the Dunes implores you, to end dune grading for view enhancement.

End this constant discord it brings to our community. End it once and for all.

End it because it is the only equitable decision for you to make.

Thank you.
Dianna Turner
Oral Testimony 9/14/19 AM

Compromise and invasive species. Two things that we heard a lot about at our last meeting.

Invasive species is a term that some of us have an immediate negative reaction to. Some words just have that, like bulldozing. But as a person sinks into this issue, as The Friends of the Dunes has done for the last five years, we realize that this invasive species is our best friend, and is necessary, and is the necessary compromise that it took over a 100 years to reach.

And that this City has spent the last five years investigating and researching and spending hours and thousands of dollars to look at and see, is there a better way and what would that be? And I commend you for bringing in people who are not related to the issue in a financial way and are not in jeopardy of losing something that they cherish, like their view, which I completely understand, of course they do. And people like Dr. Hacker who just a couple of days ago told us that the sand is the big issue. It comes and it goes. and that Accretion is 50% sand supply and 10% grass.

So this whole issue of grass. I understand the people who are new to the discussion finding it provocative and something that they need to understand. But for those of us that have been involved and taken this journey, we understand that it’s a diversionary tactic, that replanting the dunes under the greenwashing umbrella of returning it to it’s native state would sacrifice the dune’s primary responsibility which the Federal Govt., the state of OR and you have all been tasked with guaranteeing us. And that is a strong dune that would protect us from storms.

Our congress, right now is looking at the Living Shoreline Act and the whole purpose of that is to put money into small coastal communities like ours so that they can build what we have and what we’ve had. What this compromise of allowing European Beach Grass, American Beach Grass and American Dune Grass and all the other native species like the lupin, sallow, huckleberry, that do exist currently in the hardworking, active eco-system of our dunes. We have it, why would we tear it away?
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So invasive species and compromise. You and I, and all of us who share European heritage, are the original invasive species. Like European beach grass, we came and displaced the natives who used this land as their summer camp. But unlike the native Americans we like this place where the forest meets the sea so much that we decided to stay.

We cleared the native dunes of their tress and plants and built houses and condos and this town of Cannon Beach. And the sand moved, as it must and those who built didn’t and don’t like it.

And so we planted European beach grass to hold the dunes and the sand. And the European beach grass was successful. Too successful for our neighbors who live on the active foredune.

So now our neighbors tell us they want to return the dunes to their native state and remove European beach grass. This is simply a thinly veiled attempt to protect their views. What does it matter if the dunes are replanted with natives if they are only going to be bulldozed under in a couple of years?

For those who want to have a dune made of native plants, dive into list of natives and find the ones that are big and strong enough to do the job of holding the dunes. And when you do, you will realize that it would be a return to the dunes of old when the forest met the sea.

But if I am wrong, and this is a genuine desire for native plants by our neighbors, then I’ll cheerlead from the sidelines as you transform your property by ripping out the green lawns, hydrangea, fascia, lilies and all the other non-native species that are currently landscaping your properties and replace them with our beautiful natives. The City of Cannon Beach has a list of natives that do well here.

Thank you.
Dianna Turner
Oral Testimony PM 9/17/19

So, tonight I want to clarify a couple of things.

First off, The Friends of the Dunes is asking you to end dune grading for views. Views only. We understand that their will be times when remedial dune grading is needed. We recognize this grading as necessary, like...come on, say it with me...European beach grass, American beach grass, and all the native plants we have in our dune ecosystem.

So the gentleman who's concerned about sand blowing up over his fence and onto his foundation? Yes, the City does, and should, have a process to help you take care of that.

We only oppose the unnecessary grading of our state-owned lands to give a tiny percentage of people a better view of the ocean from inside their homes. That's it.

We are asking for no more dune grading for views. Not a catchy slogan, but a reasonable policy change.

There's been a lot of talk about safety and access. I agree that these are important issues. But they can not be addressed in this conversation. Because this conversation, this process that we're now in is to consider how our state-owned dunes can be graded. Nothing else.

Goal 18 does not address access and safety. And remember these are state-owned lands, so the state of Oregon would need to participate in that discussion.

This process of looking at the Foredune Management Plan started five-long years ago. So, if beach safety and access is a genuine concern, it needs to be a separate process of investigation and testimony starting back with the Planning Commission.

The discussion of re-imagining the dunes with as many native plants as possible and as a snowy-plover sanctuary is also a separate conversation and, if sincere, needs to have its own process starting back at the Planning Commission.

Please don't be distracted by these side conversations that have no legitimate place in this discussion of dune grading for views.

Mr. Morgan characterized the Planning Commissions' amendment to you, (asking that you consider whether or not to continue the policy of dune-grading for views,) as "simply a directive to do your job."
Really, how often have you received an amendment from the Planning Commission asking you to just do your job?

Mr. Morgan was not involved in any of the Planning Commission’s process and only came to this issue when hired by his dune-grading clients. So let me clarify, because I was at those meetings, I went to every one of them over 14 months and I took notes and transcribed audio.

I’m going to quote Mr. Kabeiseman here, “you could include in your recommendation a notation, something to the effect “This is the best we could come up with, but we think that the whole question as to whether grading is allowed should be reconsidered.”

So, that’s how and why you got the amendment that you received. They were wanting to communicate to you that you needed to address the overarching question of whether or not to even allow grading.

Thank you.
October 1, 2019
Cannon Beach City Council
City Hall
163 E Gower St.
Cannon Beach, OR 97110

Dear Mayor and Councilors,

Thank you for doing this hard, but necessary work. I’m sure there are many times when you question your decision to serve Cannon Beach in this way.

Like you, I love Cannon Beach. My grandparents owned a duplex in the Presidential District in the 1950s. Family lore says my grandma Jewel packed sandwiches for the kids and sent them to play in the dunes. "It’s in the name," she said, "they're meant to be eaten in the sand!"

My husband and I consider ourselves wildly lucky to have purchased our home in the north end 11 years ago. We spend most of the summer and many weekends and holidays here.

I have followed this issue for five years as part of a group of concerned citizens known as The Friends of the Dunes at Cannon Beach. What an education it’s been!

I’ve attended every Planning Commission meeting regarding the FMP and took notes.

I have heard many misrepresentation and would like to respond to the most egregious ones and provide further context for your consideration.

Misrepresentation #1: PC accepted Allan’s fourth objective without reservation.

The Planning Commission questioned whether dune grading for views should continue from the beginning of their review process. When Dr. Allan presented his final report to them, they questioned his inclusion of dune grading for view as an appropriate, scientific objective.
Please see the exact, unedited, transcribed exchange below from their July 5, 2018 meeting.

(From the City's Audio link: https://www.ci.cannon-beach.or.us/sites/default/files/audio/planning/2018/18-07-05_pc.mp3)

Commissioner Kerr asks Dr. Allen the first question of the meeting.

Kerr—Well, I’m going to ask you to go through 6.0, go through it with us right now: Dune Management Implications.

Allan—Specifically?

Kerr—Just the whole thing. The whole section, just go through it with us.

LONG SILENCE, DR. ALLAN DOES NOT RESPOND

Kerr—Ok, let me give you an example. I’m looking at a paragraph, the paragraph 1.

Allan—What page are you on?

Kerr—Page 68 on one of them.

Barnes—Page 68 on the binder document that you have.

Kerr—70 on mine, with my writing on it, so I need my own notes. Ok? So looking at the paragraph “so it is apparent that a fourth objective is necessary.” So could you talk about where you got that from, that paragraph, scientifically?

Allan—I have no idea where you, what you’re talking about.

Kerr—OK, page 68.

Lundy—Under heading 6.1 Background.

Kerr—Oh, see it’s different. The numbers are different. Oh no, no, no it’s not. Under 6.0 Dune Management Implications and then under that 6.1 Background. And
then it's paragraph, one, two, three, four: "It is apparent that a fourth objective is necessary." So can you explain where that came from?

Allan—So, it’s an observation, that...

Kerr—Based on what?

Allan—It’s an observation based on what is taking place on the Oregon Coast. Which is that one of the goals of managing dunes is from the standpoint of maintain view sheds. It’s also well establish in scientific literature, where this is happening elsewhere in the world.

Kerr—But I, I, guess I’m trying to understand how that’s a scientific principle?

Allan—I didn’t say it’s a principle. I just said it was an objective.

Kerr—Well what is it?

Allan—it’s one of the goals of maintaining a dune system.

Kerr—Is it an objective for a municipality?

Allan—It could be, sure.

Kerr—I’m just wondering where you got it from because, it seems to be. I’m not understanding.

Bennett—Are you saying that your research has shown that other communities on the Pacific coast, they are adopting these goals?

Allan—So, what I’m saying here is that there are obviously certain goals with respect to dune management. One of which is to obviously maintain the integrity of the dune. In order to mitigate and buffer against storm conditions. One is to maintain habitat. And then I offered up a fourth objective which is where by some communities are now wanting to grade dunes for the purpose of maintain views sheds. And my point remains the same that this is an approach that is being
adopted and implemented not just here in Oregon but elsewhere around the country and the world. It’s a fact.

Kerr—That people are doing it.

Allan—Yeah.

Kerr—I know, but I guess, I...

Allan—So it’s an objective in the sense that one needs to manage that situation somehow. So you don’t just go willy-nilly cut the dune down to some arbitrary data and then see what the consequences are. So it needs to be managed. And I would argue that’s the role of, you know we can provide the science to guide the management side of it. That that’s what’s needed to be done. But ultimately, you all are making that decision.

Kerr—You’re not making any judgement about whether it should be done or shouldn’t be done?

Allan—No, I’m not making that judgement at all.

Kerr—You’re just saying that it is being considered in various jurisdictions around the world. I wish you would have said it that way then. In your report, because it’s confusing to me the way it’s said. It just doesn’t it sounds like your listing these various things and then really this is just sort of a narrative about what’s happening in other places. There seems to be an implicit value judgement, that’s all I’m saying.

Risley—And what can we do about it? As far as, maybe putting an asterisk?

Kerr—Yeah, it just...

Allan—I don’t think it changes the argument or the story.

Kerr—No, I just, it would be nice to have. I would appreciate it I guess, this is data. And I would appreciate it, I guess, if it was clearer what that is. Because it sounds like, I think it has lead to almost a conclusion that is a necessary or valid purpose.
And I’m not saying it’s not, I’m just saying the way it’s worded makes it sound like it is and it leads to other things.

Allan–So I’m not saying that dune grading is key. I’m not saying this is something you should be doing. I’m just stating an observation that it’s becoming more apparent that in some areas there is an additional objective in dune management activities where grading is apart of that process of consideration.

Bennett–It is permitted in our current regulations right?

Risley–Correct.

Allan–Ok, it is an observation from multiple activities from around the country and the world.

Lundy–Would it be fair to, my perception is Ms. Kerr’s discomfort with this is that it seems to be equating the status of that fourth objective, which I think is a preferential, we want, a lot of people want to do that with the other ones in terms of protecting from flooding, protecting native plants and animals and so forth. Which we have an obligation to do. And I think she has a valid point but I think you’ve responded.

Allan–I don’t disagree with that. Again the point is, if you’re going to do dune grading then you need to have science guide the grading. That’s what this is about.

Lundy–Yes.

Allan–It needs to be integrated into your management plan. That’s the purpose behind this.

Lundy–Yes, and that’s why we asked you to do this.

Kerr–Right, Thank you for articulating that. That is what was bothering me about it. Equating that with the other three and actually at this point, there are a lot of citizens in this community who don’t want dune grading at all. So, it, but by
equating it with protecting habitat and protecting against flooding, as a fourth objective? That's why I'm objecting to the way it is written.

Allan—But, let me again reiterate what I've said before. In other parts of the country people are actually doing grading activities. When you do that you need to be mindful of all the other factors that are going on including protecting the dune to buffer against waves as well as protecting habitat. It's all part of the consideration.

Kerr—Well, I wish you would have said it that way.

Allan—It says it.

Kerr—No it doesn’t say that.

Allan—I disagree.

Kerr—Well it doesn’t say anything about it's being done in other parts of the country. It doesn’t say anything, it’s listing four different criteria and this is one of them.

Lundy—Maybe I should introduce a question to one or both of you. Is there a mechanism by which anything that comes out of this discussion can be fed back into a later version of this? Or is this

Allan—No, no.

Lundy—This is the report that’s been submitted and we’ve accepted it.

Barnes—I think John is right, this is a finished report. But I don’t think this locks you into a particular prioritization of those objectives. I think your job as policy makers is to balance those and find the balance that works here for us. So the fact that fourth objectives seems to be treated on an equal basis with the other three...

Lundy—We don’t have to...

Barnes—Yeah, it doesn’t constrain your activities in the least. Your job is to balance those and reach whatever balance you think works best in Cannon Beach.
Kerr—OK, that makes sense, thanks.

Barnes—I don’t think this conflicts with, at all from that point of view.

Lundy—Are you satisfied, we’re not going to make any progress on that point?

Kerr—No we’re not going to.

From this exchange you see that the Planning Commission, from the beginning of their work, knew that citizens no longer wanted dune grading for views to occur in Cannon Beach. And with that knowledge they were questioning it’s inclusion in the DOGAMI Report.

**Misrepresentation #2: The dunes are not natural.**

We’ve heard in oral and written testimony that the dunes are not natural and therefore should not be protected.

This too was much discussed with the Planning Commission. They concluded that they were natural and beautiful, and as such added the 4th Prioritized Management Objective: To maintain the integrity and natural beauty of the dunes. Page 9 of the Foredune Management Plan.

No one can definitively declare that the dunes in Cannon Beach are, or are not, natural. After cataract lens replacement surgery, are the eyes no longer natural?

We opponents of dune grading for views do not compare the dunes to, as Mr. Morgan claimed: old growth forest, a wetland, or a pristine estuary. The dunes are intrinsically without comparison. Their wild beauty is evident and valuable in its own right.

Yes, European and American Beach Grasses are non-native plants and were purposely imported into the dunal system by the citizens of Cannon Beach. Their reasons were clear and still apply: to protect the town and homes from sand inundation and storms.
Since introduction, the plants have lived a natural process of evolution, especially in areas where dune grading has not been permitted such as Chapman Point. Dr. Hacker explained that American Beach Grass is becoming dominant in our dunes, and that a hybrid beach grass has developed and is gaining ground. This is a natural process, this is what happens when nature is allowed to take its course.

But make no mistake, we believe our state-owned dunes, natural or otherwise, must be self-regulating, and not bulldozed at property owners' whim. The dunes are our first line of defense against storms, king tides and tsunamis. They are fundamental to the majesty of our shoreline, and sacred to some, which is also of importance.

**Misrepresentation #3: PC considered voting to ban dune grading multiple times.**

In oral testimony on September 14th, Mr. Morgan said: I heard from someone at CREST that PC was asked numerous times over the course of 13 hearings, meetings, whether or not they wanted to ban dune grading and every time they declined.

This too is woefully incorrect. The Planning Commissioners discussed voting to end dune grading for views at their first meeting of deliberation on July 26, 2018. They quickly decided to proceed through the documents and then circle back to the question after fully reviewing the documents. This decision was based on a desire to ensure that they had given the matter thorough consideration in order to give City Council a well examined recommendation. They adhered to their plan, only returning to the question of recommending removing the policy of dune grading for views from the Comprehensive Plan at their last meeting on November 20, 2018.

At their July 26, 2018 meeting, their first to deliberate on the FMF, Chairman Lundy begins by reading an email from then City Planner Mark Barnes responding to the question that Barnes had received from multiple Planning Commissioners about how they would remove dune grading for views from the Comprehensive Plan.

Please see the exact, unedited, transcribed exchange below from July 26, 2018.
(From the City's audio file. https://www.ci.cannon-beach.or.us/sites/default/files/audio/planning/2018/18-07-26.mp3)

Lundy—Second page of materials that we received, second paragraph. No grading alternative. (Quoting from the email) “Commissioners asked, some commissioners asked about the option of ending all foredune grading for views. There is no need to adopt the Allen report, or CREST report or any of the proposed Plan or Ordinance Amendments if the Commission wants to end dune grading for views. In this case the Commission’s recommendation would be to delete the Comprehensive Plan Policy addressing foredune grading for views. And delete the corresponding implementation Measures in the Ocean Front Management Overlay Section.”

In a minute or so, I’m going to invite anyone who’d like to make a motion to end dune grading. Because if we have a majority of Commissioners up here who know that’s the way they’re going to vote in the end I think we can put this to rest and not discuss things that are not going to happen anyway. On the other hand, if we have such a vote and it fails and we go ahead and have however much more discussion we need. I am not going to say, “no we’ve already voted on that, you can’t introduce that motion.” If we have that vote now, it would not preclude having a corresponding vote later in the evening. Is that clear? I think we should have some discussion first if we should have such a vote. So nobody feels railroaded into it. Any opinion?

Risley—My God, this has just been so much to digest.

Bennett—So, by not having dune grading, do you mean any dune grading or no dune grading for views?

Lundy—For views.

Kerr—I think we need to have a discussion.

Lundy—Ok.

Risley—I do too.
Bennett—How do you feel?

Kerr—That we should have a discussion, about all the options.

Bennett—Ok.

Kerr— Everything. I don’t think it’s fair to anybody to just snap right out of it without even having discussed it among ourselves.

Commissioners Risley and Bennett agreed with Kerr and Vice Chairman Johnson read his testimony into the record. His testimony ends with “You would have to be totally blind to say that the past 20 years of dune management in Cannon Beach has been a success. We have graded, we have defaced the sand dunes only to find within one or two years more sand in these areas. We have ten times more sand in and around Breakers Point than when it was built. With this said the Planning Commission recommendation to City Council is not complete unless a no grading option is offered.”

Misrepresentation #4: PC accepts Goal #5 as possible in conjunction with other Goals.

Then, staying true to their plan, the Planning Commission went laboriously through the documents. What they did, however, ask each other time and again was how they could possibly satisfy the various objective that were intrinsically in opposition to one another such as Objective #3: To maintain valuable habitat for a wide range of plants and animals, such as shellfish, including razor clams, and in some cases rare species while at the same time satisfying Objective #5: To maintain dunes at a particular height via dune scraping in order to retain or restore views of the ocean and to minimize sand blowing inland among properties where it is not wanted.

I ask you the same question today. How would one allow the bulldozing of the dunes while maintaining habitat for the wide range of plants and animals that call our dunes home? It is, of course, impossible.

After going through the documents and forming their recommendation that is riddled with many incongruities similar to the conflicting objectives mentioned
above, the Commissioners returned to the question of recommending to you no

dune grading for views.

Please see the exact, unedited, transcribed exchange below from November 20,

2018.

The City’s Audio link: https://www.ci.cannon-beach.or.us/sites/default/files/audio/

planning/2018/18-11-20-pc.mp3

Kerr—Well, I’m back on page one.

Lundy—Of what?

Kerr—Foredune Management Plan, Attachment B.

Lundy—Yes.

Kerr—Ok, now, I’m going to say that various people who live in Cannon Beach have

spoken to me, given me their opinions. I’m disclosing that. It’s not going to

influence what I’m thinking. But I just want to tell you that I keep hearing from

people. Ok, in the city, who have opinions about what they think should be done.

Lundy—But this is, again, obviously you’re aware of the fact that this isn’t for

public...

Kerr—I’m well aware of that, yes.

Lundy—Ok, you’re aware of that.

Kerr—This is something I brought up earlier. And I’ve never been very satisfied with

the answers. And I’d like to get from the rest of the Commission your opinion
definitively, OK? Goal #5: To maintain dunes at a particular height via dune

scraping in order to retain or restore views of the ocean and to minimize sand

blowing inland among properties where it is not wanted. Do we want that goal or

not? And, I, a long time ago I asked about, you know, do we want to put it on a

ballot measure, the whole thing? I think we have to decide if that’s what we want.

Not come back at the end of this and say no we don’t want dune scrapping. I

mean do we want it, as one of the five goals? Do we want it as a goal?
Lundy—I do.

Kerr—You do?

Lundy—Umm-hum...

Risley—I have difficulty with it.

Lundy—What’s that?

Risley—I have difficulty with it.

Johnson—I mean, as I stated before, over the last 30 years they haven’t made any improvements on the accretion of sand even though they’ve been scraping time and time again. So yeah, I have questions with the whole process.

Kerr—But right now we’re just accepting Goal #5. I mean that’s what we’ve done. We’ve said “Oh yes, these are the five goals.” We’ve done everything we can to massage them, to put it in different orders and try to make them, you know, and put it last on the list. All that kind of thing, but I’m not so sure that what we’re doing here is what we really want to do.

Johnson—I agree.

Kerr—So what do we do then? We don’t go through this process with Goal #5 in here if we don’t like it. Because this whole thing is based on these five goals.

Adams—So, you know. I’m, what’s the point of what you all are doing if your not having a mention of the foredune grading?

Kerr—That’s right.

Adams—If that’s the whole thing?

Kerr—Yes.
Adams—Right.

Kerr—And I’m not sure that’s what everyone wants though. It’s sort of like a foregone conclusion. And I’m not positive everyone is thinking, feeling good about it or feels like they’ve been railroaded into it. Or it’s sort of been pushed on them.

Bernt—It’s been an accepted goal up to this point. And you know, and someone objected immediately, to that notion because it’s our job as a vetting commission to decide such matters. It’s not a matter of popular opinion. Well I think we’ve heard enough popular opinion and it’s pretty conflicting. I’ve always thought the notion that because someone built a house someplace that they have the right to a view. As if they bought the view. And that view is ever changing. So I’ve never been very comfortable with this standing goal for managing the dune. So I don’t know what that means. I guess I’m kinda where you’re sitting. I just feel like we’ve been working, and working and working around all the edges. And not really coming into

Kerr—We’ve been scraping it away.

Johnson—I’d love to.

Kerr—No but we have been. Everything we’ve said, everything that we’ve gone through on this has been to try to minimize that. And I’m wondering, as I started thinking about that, well, what are we doing here? Do we want to minimize it or do we want to say, you know?

Lundy—Do you care to propose that the goal be removed?

Kerr—No, no, I want a discussion. I want to hear others, hear what other commissioners are thinking. Joe said what he’s thinking. I’m not sure. I’m not sure.

Johnson—Well, this is a recommendation for City Council. If we wanted to vote our conscious and drop that fifth goal, City Council can add back that fifth goal if they want.

Kerr—Oh, yeah, they can.
Johnson—We can justify dropping it by suggesting that it’s something that the community should decide.

Kerr—True, that’s true. Then there’s the other side of that same coin, is if we do drop it, does that leave, and we’ve worked on this so hard, and thought it through an incredible amount. Do we leave it open for City Council to come up with something worse? You know, I mean, I mean, you know what I mean,

Lundy—(Laughs)

Kerr—Something that we would consider worse.

Lundy—That’s a reasonable question.

Kerr—Well I don’t know, you’re laughing, so I’m not sure.

Bernt—Essentially we’ve been lobbied to death in the course of the last, I don’t know how many months.

Lundy—last year.

Bernt—Is it exactly that? And we’ve really never have come to deal with the main issue of conflict. And ultimately that’s the reason people vote. One way or another man, usually.

Kerr—And how does that work? Is that something…I’m not sure.

Kabeiseman—Well, I can offer some perspective having seen this and thinking and you know. I don’t know if this is going to answer your question. Feel free to ask it again or ask a different one. But I guess I’d start with the Comprehensive Plan we have now in place. Right now this is an Amendment to the Comprehensive Plan and it should be consistent. In your current Comprehensive Plan, have, the policies have: grading or sand movement necessary to maintaining views or prevent sand inundation may be allowed for structures in foredune areas only if the area is committed to development or is within an acknowledged urban growth boundary and only as part of an overall plan for managing foredune grading.
So your Comprehensive Plan acknowledges that this is something that you

Kerr—May...

Kabeiseman—That you may do, right, I’m not saying that you’ve got to do it. But you may do. Historically it is something that Cannon Beach has allowed. And that was, I think, the background that led to these documents being prepared. Assuming that, and this is a big assumption I’ll get back to. Assuming that it is something you do want, that Cannon Beach does want to allow. Ultimately it is City Council’s call. You know the goals, the first four of those goals, talk about essentially preserving the dunes and you know, it’s not quite that simple but close enough. And this is a goal that says “and we’ll allow sand scraping for views.” If you were to take that goal out there would be nothing to support the idea of dune grading.

Kerr—Right.

Kabeiseman—So eliminating the goal would really kinda, could cause some internal issues within this document itself.

Kerr—Oh you’d have to change the whole document.

Kabeiseman—And that’s certainly something you can do. It sounds like though, your idea isn’t so much changing the whole document as much as “we ought to get rid of grading dunes, grading for views entirely.” If that’s something the Planning Commission wishes, desires to do. A suggestion might be to make this as best you can to allow views and include a recommendation with it: saying to City Council that “here’s the best we can do in terms of grading for views. However we believe the question of whether this should be allowed entirely should be reconsidered by the City Council.

Kerr—I like that.

Risley—Um humm...

Lundy—Ya...
(Other Commissioners add “um humms” of agreement.)

This exchanges shows unequivocally that the majority of the Planning Commission wanted to end the current policy of dune grading for views. After their exhausted review they realized it is unworkable and unwanted by this community. It also shows that they were directed by the City’s attorney, Mr. Kabeiseman, NOT to remove Goal #5 which allows dune grading for views and NOT to do the additional work on the documents to reflect the elimination of Goal #5. You received their Addendum at his direction and assurance that it would be the best way to express to you that a large number of citizens no longer want dune grading for views to happen in Cannon Beach while allowing for the policy framework for continuing dune grading for other reasons besides views.

In conclusion, I stand resolved that the policy of dune grading for views must come to an end. We'll never find a way to treat all parts of the littoral cell equally, though it is required. We'll never find a way to protect animal and plant habitat, though it is required. We'll never find a number, or process that will return the homeowners’ view for any extended period of time. Grading will be repeatedly required.

We, the majority, must to be able to enjoy our 360 degree view shed from the beach: to the dunes, the sky and the ocean, without biennial grading restricting our access to the beach and then enduring grading’s ugly, unnatural aftermath. We, the majority, should not be required to sacrifice our safety for the minorities’ “view enhancement.”

This continuous, contentious circle of permit requests for dune grading for views must come to an end, with you, and your decision to remove the policy from the City’s Comprehensive Plan. I wish you strength to your sword arm.

Sincerely,

Dianna Turner
THE DUNES OF CANNON BEACH

They Provided A:
- Valuable public asset enjoyed by residents and visitors
- Habitat for plants and animals
- Critical part of Cannon Beach’s economy and beauty
- Critical bulwark against storm damage and flooding
- Protection against ever-increasing storms, king-tide waves and tsunamis
ENJOYING THE DUNES
A Solar Eclipse Party
Elk in the Dunes

Ungraded dunes offer a natural habitat for a wide range of plants and animals.
Post Grading at Breakers Point

Post Grading at Presidential
Area illegally graded by BP in 2016. Photo taken 09/19 – notice slow rate of recovery.

Mowed dune grass at Presidential streets
Chapman Point’s Ungraded Dunes