City of Cannon Beach Chamber of Commerce  
PO Box 368, Cannon Beach, Or. 97110  

Subject: Fore dune Management Plan Update Meetings Sept 2018  

Dear City Council,  

This memo represents Ecola Inn, the Stevens and Sund families, and Ecola inns customer views. The Stevens/Sund families have resided here since roughly 1930, build and managed the inn through 3 generations. Ideally this will carry forward through many more generations. The customer base is roughly 7-8 thousand people per year. The customers have also been coming to our inn for multi generations. The customer base is here for two reasons;  

a. Close and easy access to Cannon Beach  
b. View of Cannon Beach and Haystack rock.  

After listening to all the presentations I would summarize that Cannon Beach is a tourist industry city; main attraction is the beach and Haystack Rock. At the meetings everyone that spoke comes here for the beach access and views. They live or stay in a private home or motels to facilitate their enjoyment of the area. This commercialism of the views and beach access is what puts food on our collective tables. To alter this places the community at financial risk. Everything we do should be to improve the access and improve the views, including ordinance passed to manage shore protection.
To summarize our thoughts and positions on Dune Management:

1) We were one of the original families in 1977 to oppose the FEMA request on sand dunes and as part of the opposing party we asked for the original science to prove and show what we could expect. At this time there were 528 residents. Today is a little over a thousand residents.

2) The FEMA project passed so community could gain cheap flood/tidal surge insurance.

3) Goal 18 is a coastal guideline to protect coast from 100 year tide and storm surges. It does not state that Dunes are the only method of shore protection. There are others; Rip Rap, Sea Walls, Pilings, and other methods and/or combinations that could be used to satisfy goal 18. Goal 18 has been met and is not a law.

4) The science presented then by Geologists and Botanists was accurate and validated the original data. We see today what was projected by the scientists then.

5) The only scientific data not shown was financial cost to build and cost to maintain dunes annually against cost of FEMA insurance. Basically an ROI (Return on Investment). I think possibly we could be spending more money for FEMA insurance and Shore protection management than it would have cost just to buy private Insurance.

6) Currently we oppose planting any further invasive species to build or maintain Dunes. If planting is required please do so with the natural NW beach grass in any process to build or replanting a current Dune. Please use all the local natural plant species to do this. I cannot think of one invasive species that did not create much larger problems downstream to introduction. This is because we lack long Term knowledge and data to support the introduction.

7) As far as wildlife goes, the only animals I have seen in the Dunes are Rats, Rabbits, Dogs, and Cats. I walk the beach and Dune areas daily from 2nd Ave to Tclovana Park.

8) We also believe in property ownership rights. The state of Oregon has 3 primary beach front owners: Fed's, State, and Private Citizens. We believe that the owner of the property should have the right to maintain his land. I think that the city should ordain what grading and mowing is, and process for owner to manage a dune and eliminate any permitting process. Please keep it simple with defined metrics. As one gentleman stated How much sand is enough?

9) If the citizens want to ordain what a private property owner should provide for shore protection then the community should ask for the private parties' permission to proceed, then pay for the provision and any downstream maintenance or liabilities created by the shore protection. Shore protection is not only for the beach from owner, but is there for the community as a whole.
10) We believe that the owners of property should be able to provide whatever shore protection they believe is best for their property as they are the ones to pay for it and should not be stuck on one solution fits all. (Dunes). Properly designed shore protection can be done that allows for Form, Fit, Function, and value. The form of that shore protection can be created to be pleasing to the eye along with better functionality. Road construction is a good example.

11) We believe that 3rd parties outside our community have no rights to say how we manage our community and set our ordinance, unless that 3rd party is State or Federal government laws. Cannon Beach is not a park but a zoned community and is basically privately owned and managed with free public access. 3rd party. Special interests for Dunes should direct their activities to those state and Federal lans that have Dunes, not the privately owned and zoned sections where man resides.

There is a short story that provides a good analogy for our current path to shore protection. That story is the 3 little pigs and the building of a home that is robust enough to withstand a storm. We have elected to build a straw home as a barrier........ We want to see adequate protection and do not believe a sand dune with grass will provide such protection.

Bottom line is we want a beach that is Cannon Beach and not a copy of East Coast beaches that have dune shore protection or European ones that have dunes. We do not want to be like Oregon Beaches that have dunes. We want to have Cannon Beach preserved as it was. I have included a book with a short story line and pictures of what Cannon Beach was when Book was written in 1955. This could be used a benchmark or guideline as it shows very clearly the beach, Haystack Rock, no Dunes or minimal dunes with native grass and associated business built in proximity to beach.

Not to detract from above; but the time period to speak and rules surrounding this are not adequate. Only Current residents and businesses should have the right to speak along with enough time to present their position in one presentation. This should no: be split up to finish the whole position or repeated session to session because presentation is short. The citizens should have as much time as any special presentation (Scientists) and be able to present on a screen like the scientists, uninterrupted and then have a short Q&A. IE; 20 minute pitch, 10 minute Q&A per party.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Jeannette Stevens
Owner Ecola Inn.