Colleen Dick

From: mike morgan <hmnc@pacifier.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 19, 2019 8:54 AM
To: Colleen Dick; Jeffrey Adams
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Subject: Burmeister-Brown Property Ocean Avenue

To the City Council:

I'm not sure if any of the Councilors or Staff remember the events leading up to the purchase of the Ocean Avenue property (the dunes west of Ocean Avenue from Harrison to Washington) but according to some sources it goes something like this: In the 1980s Bud and Jeanette Stevens obtained a quit claim deed for the dunes, with the intention of developing it in some way, or at least leveraging it for expansion of their hotel. Steve Martin was involved because the Surfsand encompassed a portion of the area to the north of that hotel. The Burmeister-Browns became aware of this and filed suit to determine the true owners of the dunes, and the Circuit Court or possibly the Court of Appeals ruled that the dunes belonged to Mr. Kramer, the man who subdivided the lots along Ocean Avenue back in 1910 or so. The Burmeister-Browns sought out each heir of Mr. Kramer across the country, and negotiated at price with them all, ending up purchasing the dunes for over a quarter million dollars. The Burmeister-Browns are committed environmentalists and want to keep the dunes undeveloped, but also to manage the vegetation and dune height, and have supported the several grading operations in that area. The initial grading in 2003, supported by all of the Ocean Avenue homeowners, removed the 12' high dune along the edge of Ocean Avenue which at the time was infested with Japanese Knotweed, blackberries and rats. Since that time the oceanfront homeowners have maintained the street edge as a park which has become enormously successful as a place to walk, picnic, view the rock and ocean, and have ceremonies. There are no "no trespassing" signs anywhere. People freely move among the dunes or use the well defined paths at the street ends. Molly Edison is a frequent visitor with her dog because of the relatively flat terrain and views. She would never have driven down there to walk prior to the dune grading. So the work of the homeowners and the Burmeister-Browns in particular have created a seven block long public park at no cost to the City. Over the course of the summer thousands of people walk or drive along Ocean Avenue. It is the closest thing Cannon Beach has to a promenade. An occasional scraping of the top of the dunes does not seem to be a bad thing given the benefits that have accrued to everyone.

Mike Morgan