



City of Seaside

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Cover Sheet for Letter of Interest to Fill City Council Vacancy **DEC 27 2018**

CITY OF SEASIDE
HUMAN RESOURCES

Name: **Roelof Wijbrandus**

Date: **December 28, 2018**

Are you a registered voter? Yes No The City Clerk will verify voter registration.

Are you a resident of the City of Seaside? Yes No

Please Note: Your letter of interest and application materials are public records and will be included with the City Council's Agenda materials, posted on the City's website, and made available to the media and general public. The personal data requested on the second page of this cover sheet will be redacted.

This appointment process is to fill an unscheduled vacancy on the City of Seaside's City Council. The term of this seat is from the date of appointment to December 2020. Only City of Seaside registered voters who have submitted a letter of interest by the deadline will be considered for appointment.

To apply for this vacancy, submit this cover sheet and a letter of interest that includes a description of your ability to serve to:

Roberta Greathouse, Human Resources Director / Risk Manager, in person at City Hall (440 Harcourt Avenue), via email to rgreathouse@ci.seaside.ca.us, or via fax to (831) 718-8593.

In order to be considered for this vacancy, your letter of interest must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on January 2, 2019.

Please note that City Hall will be closed on December 24 & 25 as well as January 1, 2019.

BECOMING A MEMBER OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Private Versus Public: Becoming a candidate for public office means that information about you will become a matter of public record immediately. With a few exceptions, this includes any and all documents submitted to the City during the course of the application period. As such, these documents must, by law, be available to the public for inspection and/or copying. Redacted copies of submitted applications will be available on the City's website.

Interview Process: On January 10, 2019, all applicants are invited to make a 3 minute presentation to the City Council regarding their ability to work in a team environment as a member of a governing board (if an applicant is unable to make a presentation they will still be considered to fill this vacancy.)

Application for Seaside City Council

Background

Occupation: Retired Professor from the Defense Language Institute.

Years Lived in the Area: On the Monterey Peninsula 41 years. In Seaside 30 years.

Education: Master of Arts degree from the University of Massachusetts.

Community Activities: I have been involved in sustainable living solutions for as long as I have lived on the Monterey Peninsula. While living in Monterey, I was actively involved and a big supporter of the Window on the Bay project that resulted in the current hiking and biking trail that now runs from Castroville to Pebble Beach. In Seaside I have worked actively with the Sustainable Seaside group to promote better sustainable living solutions such as safer parks, school safety programs, improvement of biking opportunities, and sustainable designs for housing and business development. I am a graduate of the Seaside Police Academy training and I am the chair of our Mescal Neil Park neighborhood association, which I founded 15 years ago. I regularly attend city council meetings to provide input via public comment and I attended many of the 20/40 Seaside planning meetings. I also own a house of the month, January 2009.

Vision

Our city and our leadership are critical to our partner cities. We are situated between a National Monument and a growing university and we have one most diverse ethnic populations on the Peninsula with a rich cultural heritage that we can be proud of. We are a city of old-time residents and many newcomers. We have workforce members struggling to afford housing and we have many new young professionals becoming homeowners. At the same time we are dealing with a crisis of homeless people looking for basic services and safe shelter. It is important that we address all these challenges carefully and compassionately.

During the past few years our city has transformed the downtown area, established a city economic development office, and provided a weekly Farmers' Market. We have developed a street improvement plan that is being implemented, we are seeing protected bike paths to showcase our desire to become a more attractive and livable city, and we are seeing new businesses opening up in town. We have welcomed new voices on commissions, committees and at city council meetings. Most importantly, we have broken ground on a brand new housing and business development near the CSUMB called Campus Town.

This will greatly enhance our relationship with the university and hopefully bring more young people into our city life. Our image and growth is much enhanced by these moves.

Priorities

Jobs: Seaside needs to develop more local job opportunities. Too many residents are currently commuting to jobs outside the city. I am firm believer that we can become a more sustainable city if we have people live and work within our own city limits. We still have an opportunity to develop a job oriented business community at the former Fort Ord. Let's explore the possibilities.

Youth: We need to support a safe environment for our kids to go to school. I firmly support the recent decision by the Seaside city council to allocate money for a Resource Officer at our local schools. I am well aware that this decision created controversy, but with the oversight of our current police chief, I think our kids will feel safer if they know that there is a constant sense of security and that we as a city care about their safety in funding this particular position. The kids at the schools were overwhelmingly in support of the council decision.

Land Use: We have a great need for affordable housing, especially here in Seaside. There are many families that work in the hospitality industry in nearby cities and have to commute from Seaside where many multiple families now live in single family homes due to the shortage of affordable housing. I support the Seaside inclusionary housing ordinance, but I do feel it could be strengthened to read 30% affordable and 20% workforce. We need to prioritize infill, build higher density housing, and I support policy changes that would include allowing accessory dwelling units. I would like to see more affordable housing built in the areas on Broadway, where we have too many blighted open areas that have not been developed for years. The lower Broadway remodel has been a good start to change the way we live and work in Seaside, but we need to do a lot more to improve the quality of life for our residents. The most important change we need to work in the immediate future is to implement the street improvement program that the council has recently approved.

Water: For Seaside to grow as a sustainable, welcoming, and resident friendly city, it needs to have access to a dependable water supply. The Seaside Municipal system uses an aquifer that is currently in overdraft and under court order. Cal Am water is becoming so expensive that our future growth will be stymied if we don't take local control of our water supplies and distribution system. Pure Water Monterey will provide us a good supply of needed water, but we need to work on long range solutions. Desalination is the only long term key to needed water, but we need to work with our other communities like Marina in order to

find equitable solutions. Those can best be found through public water and cooperative partnerships with our fellow communities to find sustainable solutions and to avoid costly lawsuits.

Transportation: Most of the people that live in Seaside don't work in Seaside. So we need to create better sustainable transportation opportunities within our city. We know where the main commute arteries are, but we need to improve them with better road service that includes signals that align with each other to eliminate stop and go traffic, providing safe bike corridors, eliminating signals and stop signs where possible with the use of roundabouts, and improving the safety of pedestrian traffic by improving our broken sidewalks and clearly marking crosswalk opportunities.

Fort Ord Development: I totally support the current plans that Seaside has in place for continued development at the former Fort Ord. However, I do not favor building out on Fort Ord land in such a way that we create the optics of a Seaside North with the current downtown being considered a Seaside South. This is what happened to Monterey when Highway 1 split the city in half. We need to maintain connectivity by concentrating on affordable housing and jobs in that area. I support the transition plans for FORA in 2020 with Seaside taking the reins of future development into its own hands. The current plans for an Eastside Parkway need to be revised, however. It would destroy a lot of oak woodlands east of General Jim Moore Boulevard and the currently proposed alignment would create severe traffic impacts in Seaside. We need to work on widening Gigling Road to four lanes first.

Appointment

If I am appointed to fill the available seat on the council, I am committed to working with fellow council members and city staff, listening to Seaside residents, working with local groups, and learning as much as possible to help guide our city into the future. I know the importance of teamwork and I will provide a new voice, working thoughtfully with my fellow council members. I am proud to be a resident of Seaside and I have faith that together we will move ahead, building on the successes of the past and planning for an even better tomorrow.

Roelof Wijbrandus

