



9.30.20

# MANIFEST

Welcome to the Manifest; a summary that cares more about brevity than grammar, and what is about to or could happen in Seaside than what did or didn't. Contributions to future editions are welcome at [cmalin@ci.seaside.ca.us](mailto:cmalin@ci.seaside.ca.us).

▣ Good News / Other News – The City's Homekey grant application, which could provide housing for as many as sixty homeless Seaside citizens, has met the threshold for being funded. That's the good news. The other news is our \$5.4 million application is "waitlisted", waiting for some other applicant to drop out. The other news is State staff advises if Governor Newsome's request to add another \$200 million to the Homekey program gets approved by the legislature, many of the waitlisted projects will be funded. Stay tuned.

▣ Closer To Home – The City Council put \$320,000 in the budget to improve community / social services in these challenging times. The City received twelve applications for funding before the deadline, totaling \$782,058 in requests. Those requests are being reviewed by an ad hoc committee of volunteers, with the expectation that the committee will forward recommendations to the City Council for review at the October 15 City Council meeting. The committee meetings are all public, and you can watch them on YouTube.

Small request: the people on the committee are volunteers. Don't give them grief.

▣ Playgrounds Opening – Some new COVID regs from the State are allowing us to open our playgrounds. Please continue to practice good COVID behavior - masks, hand-washing, distancing - while at the park. Seaside is, given density and demographics, leading the peninsula on COVID cases.

▣ Wanna Vote? – There's a drop box at City Hall. Apparently, there's both a national and local election on November 3. Have at it.

▣ Wanna Vote Some More? – The City received a petition with 4,321 signatures on it to rescind the recent fireworks ban the City Council adopted. The signatures are being verified by the County. If there's enough verified signatures, the City Council choices are, basically, to rescind the fireworks ban ordinance or put it on a ballot at a special

election (special elections aren't cheap). It would be far less expensive to rescind the ordinance and then, separately, place the topic on the ballot at a general election. The counting will be done and the question on next steps (if there's enough verified signatures on the petition) will come to the City Council at the November 5 meeting.

#### The 10.1 Council Agenda

- No Rush – There's no 5:30 meeting. Enjoy the respite.
- Street Repair Update – City Engineer Nisha Patel will summarize how the summer (and fall) of the biggest street repair season ever is going.
- Inspection Services For Street Repair – see above
- Main Gate CEQA Contract With EMC Planning – If the Main Gate developer signs the Purchase and Sale Agreement the City Council approved on 9.17 by the end of the day (this day), we'll be cued up to not waste a single day in moving a project forward.
- Authorizing Specialized Legal Services – Because no single attorney can do everything.
- Wireless Small Cells 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading – Doing what the City can to regulate technology largely outside our authority because ... well, Congress isn't that hard to rent if you're a group of corporations who would like national legislation your way.
- Selling Home Depot Lot – Respecting that opinions can vary on this, the City (technically the Parking Authority) owns the parking lot in front of Home Depot but can't really do much of anything with it given a set of agreements from decades ago that give the businesses considerable veto power over the City's decisions on the property. In sum, they need the lot for parking and that's just about that. So, the City could spend more on the lot to make it nicer for them, but that's probably not the greatest idea ever.

A better idea might be to get rid of property we own and have liability for but can't exercise independent control of. Thus, the idea to sell the parcel to the owner of the Home Depot property (for the appraised value of \$572,000) and eliminate the liability, and facilitate improvements - paid for by the businesses themselves - to the lot. That's the idea.

- Colonel Durham RV Parking Site Update – A report and discussion on the RV parking site on Colonel Durham street.
- Public Outreach On Illegal Fireworks – They're illegal.

📖 Know Someone Who'd Be A Great Fire Chief? – Tell her to apply by 11:59 PM, Sunday night. That's when applications close.

📖 Truth & Other Obsessions (semi-optional reading) - I've been at this a while. Passed the thirty-two year, full-time mark just this week, with thousands of public meetings along the way. Never saw/heard anything like agenda item 10C on September 17. The City has a purchase and sale agreement on the agenda for the Main Gate parcel. Been working on that opportunity for nearly four of those thirty-two (so far) years. Yours truly does the song and dance. An excellent conceptual plan, setting up a fine gateway to Seaside. An excellent conceptual plan, establishing, at long last, an entry sequence to CSUMB that doesn't scream BLIGHTED!!! former military base. Mixed uses, good urban design, good architecture. Housing, jobs, university growth ... happiness etc. I honestly don't think I was over-selling it, at all.

I stop and the developer speaks. Never saw/heard anything like it. People listen, have their own opinions, and share them. Here's mine:

If I were the developer, I'd sign the agreement. It's a uniquely spectacular piece of property and the City's willingness to provide \$15 million in investment for public infrastructure is demonstrably counter to any contention that the City doesn't want a housing, jobs, university growth ... happiness project to succeed at the uniquely spectacular piece of property.

Also, if I were the developer, I'd never again say what he said I said about Seaside. Not just here, but anywhere. The "redheaded step-child" trope is foul enough in any setting. For an orphan / step-child like myself, it's incendiary, and in a community with a majority population of people of color, the use of color to denigrate someone is a .44 magnum to the foot. And if anyone's been paying any attention at all, the long line of public crushes from Tina Louise to Jill St. John to Amy Adams to Emma Stone (just married an SNL writer, funny guys take heart) might give you a clue. My beautiful wife's auburn tresses glowing in an autumn sunset would be conclusive proof of my appreciation of the genre. I told him as much in a text during the meeting and he

replied back: "I am sorry Craig. That's what I heard. I took it as the underdog needs to move forward."

Anyone can make a mistake, and I wish him all the best. But hear this: Seaside is NOT the underdog. Seaside is the future. It is the youngest, most diverse, most energetic city on the peninsula. It has the most potential, the most raw land, the most raw talent of any city on the central coast. It's a privilege to work here, to live here, to be invited to be part of this community's future.

Hear that.

**Wear a mask. Believe in our bright future.**