



Town of Old Orchard Beach
Office of the Town Manager

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Town Council Workshop Minutes

February 28, 2024

I, Tim Fleury, Secretary to the Town Council of Old Orchard Beach, Maine, do hereby certify that the foregoing document consisting of 6 pages is a copy of the original minutes from the workshop meeting of the Old Orchard Beach Town Council held on 2/28/2024.

Prepared By:	Tim Fleury
Approved By:	Old Orchard Beach Town Council
Approval Date:	3/5/2024

Respectfully
Submitted,

Tim Fleury
Town Council
Secretary



Town Council Workshop Agenda

Wednesday, February 28th, 2024 @ 6:00pm
Council Chambers - 1 Portland Avenue

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**Members of the public wishing to view the meeting from home may tune into Local Access TV
(Channel 3 or 1301 - check with your provider) or by clicking the Meeting Videos link on oobmaine.com.)*

There will be a Town Council workshop on Wednesday, February 28th, at 6:00 PM in the Town Council Chambers to discuss the proposed public bathroom locations at the beach entrances on Ocean Avenue and Brown Street.

Chair: Shawn O'Neill

Chair O'Neill opened the workshop at 6:00pm

Town Manager Asanza presented a PowerPoint that gave an overview of the proposed locations and layouts of the proposed restrooms.

Shifra Strum – Brown Avenue – Why can't the Union Street bathrooms be connected to the town sewer? Town Manager Asanza – not on town land, can't connect. Shifra Strum – can they purchase the land? – Town Manager Asanza it is an option.

Chairman O'Neill opened the floor to public input.

Sherri Tripp - 6 Union Ave - thanked Council for the issue being brought to Town - would like to see them on Union Ave instead of Ocean - Commercial businesses along Union Ave - presented picture on proposed location - no businesses on Ocean Ave - lifeguard stand at end of Union Avenue and tourists walk down from the campground to Union Ave entrance - 2 parking spots for Lifeguards and public works - handicap spot on Ocean Ave disappeared - lifeguard parking sign that no one uses - presented map that shows potential traffic flow - if on Ocean Ave, people would cut through Crystal Ave - Vice Chair Blow - handicap spot on Ocean Ave though to be changed back - Town Manager Asanza will follow up

Marie Gagne - 8 Ocean Ave - Ocean Ave mostly residential - water at end of Ocean during rain events - residential area - Ocean Ave does not have friendly beach access - Union and Atlantic have the most businesses - First Street? Plenty of land there.

Justine Wood - Aquarius Motel - bathrooms on the middle of Brown Street - will block parking spaces at both motels at the end of the road - Chairman O'Neill - two bathrooms approved this year - didn't realize it was blocking spots - Justine Wood - short street, don't want to see blocked spots - agree it is needed on road.

Roger Teachout - Skylark Inn owner - health officials trace diseases through public restrooms - toilet plume, flushed toilet sends plume of bacteria into air, stays for 90 minutes - OOB is known for beaches - drug issues in public restrooms, fornication issues.

Joe Capone - 3 Brown St - 30 years - better places than in the entry to the

beach – disturb birds – birds have more of a right to be on the beach than the people – easement town owns goes from the beach across to railroad tracks – anywhere along the street –

Jeffrey Murphy – Breakers Condo Association on Ocean Ave – residents sent in emails – bottom of the street is underwater during rain – blocking one of the parking spaces – would hire council to represent condo association if needed.

Shifra Strum – no question that there is a need for restrooms – identify people urinating on the street all the time – proposals lack creativity – a structure built over railroad tracks to easily get to Milliken Street – families and children in the rentals on the street between the motels and small rentals – tourism is a big industry in the town – need to solve problems of bathrooms in town and need to be sensitive to tourism in town – don't know what the solution is but if this is the best solution, it may be the wrong engineering firm to use –

Ron Parent – Breakers Owner – Ocean Ave is a beautiful entrance to the beach – would not like to see public facility looking out from deck – not why they purchased place in the first place – doesn't believe it will reduce bacteria levels in the ocean – concern on property values dropping – increase in public drinking and not respecting dunes – would like to see funds used to policing of beach at pre-covid levels – parties happening on beach –

Donna Saxby – Skylark Inn – 2 Brown Street – not an easy job to find a location for a public toilet – people come for the beach – appreciate what the town does to maintain the beach – bathroom at the entrance of beach is not as appealing for people to come to beach – cars dropping off people to change at restrooms and get ready for the beach – no room for cars dropping off people – limited parking on Brown Street – 1 spot for each rented room – no

room for people parking to use bathrooms – didn't hear height of bathrooms – Town Manager Asanza – can find out – Donna Saxby – visibility issues – grandparents/parents stay on porch and watch kids playing on beach, safety issue –

Patty – Breakers on the Sea owner – would block her parking space, does not want children in danger there – safety issue with cars at end of street

Shifra Strum – Doesn't know how public restrooms are maintained currently – would like to know how they are maintained currently? How do they arrive? Where would they park? How long? How frequently and how it is monitored? Chairman O'Neill – hired a company to maintain trashcans on the beach, every hour –

Alex Wojcik – Breakers by the Sea owner – would lose access to parking – lots of kids going up and down the street all hours of the day and night – open hours and seasonally? – Town Manager Asanza – summer months only, locked at night, exterior lighting, police chief recommended cameras – Alex Wojcik – light interfere? – Town Manager Asanza – lighting designed not to interfere – Alex Wojcik – handicap sign on Ocean Ave – lifeguard sign up currently, only users were visitors and were ticketed – lifeguard stand on Union Avenue – Vice Chair Blow – handicap sign will be there before summer – apologize for not following up after previous discussion – Alex Wojcik – thanked council for adding blue mat for entrance – storm issues cover mats

Vice Chair Blow – speaking for himself, not the entire council – read all emails – does not support Ocean Ave bathroom or on Brown – apologize if it came across that it was a foregone conclusion that these were the locations – would like to check out Union – small impact, foot traffic already high on Union – very valid concerns presented – don't want to see them on Union and Brown –

maybe 1 unit on Union at this point as a pilot – opinion as single Councilor –

Town Manager Asanza – whatever areas are proposed, abutters will always receive notices to be clear and transparent on the process –

Shifra Strum – ADA-compliant suites – handicap parking and 3 rooms with no stairs – have beach wheelchair through Rec department – wouldn't be able to use if the bathroom is there.

Chairman O'Neill – thanked residents for their time and feedback – Chairman O'Neill – doesn't support Brown Street or Ocean Avenue based on input – Union is a good spot – would like to see facility close to the beach, the intent was to reduce walking from the beach.

Chairman O'Neill closed the workshop at 6:54 pm