

HOMELESS IN PARADISE
July 2-8, 2021

LET THE BOONDOGGLE-BUSTING BEGIN! – Part 7



*craig malin resigned
seaside's boondoggle-busting
city manager*

*will stay through august
can anyone fill his shoes
when craig's left the helm*

*then will homelessness
like sex acts in side-street cars
roar back uncontrolled*

*these are two questions
that might help cut through red tape
read details below*

CAN CITY MANAGER'S SUCCESSOR CURB FUTURE HOMELESSNESS?

By Wanda Sue Parrott

REPLACING Craig Malin, Seaside's City Manager who announced last Friday that he is resigning as of August 31, will be nigh impossible. See [Craig-Malin-Resigns!](#)**

If filling Craig's empty seat were all that's involved, well-qualified applicants shouldn't be hard to attract; however, Craig's reputation can't be replicated soon, if ever. Why?

Craig Malin is the first city manager in history to earn for the Seaside city team he managed the unofficial title "Boondoggle Busters."

So what?

I wrote a little book titled *The Boondoggler's Bible - How to Fight like City Hall and Win!* It's about cutting through bureaucratic red tape in order to get an action or issue settled in as short a time as possible for the greatest benefit, as opposed to boondoggling as a way to avoid, evade, and ignore important issues that never get resolved or settled.

Craig cut through such red tape, so I gave him the title of "Boondoggle Buster." That's why it happened. How it happened is the history-breaker still in the making.

Seaside's Boondoggle Bust

On the Monterey Peninsula, homeless parking problems existed for years before Craig came to Seaside in December 2015. Like an old can being kicked all over the peninsula, the community of homeless campers parked from town to town, as well as in county territory, welcome nowhere, run off by the law, and often winding up back in an area they had vacated earlier (known in boondoggle lingo as "returning to square one").

In March 2020, when the first Shelter-In-Place order was issued by then-President Donald J. Trump, a makeshift village of 32-35 occupied vehicles was living at Roberts Lake in Seaside.

Upper-floor paradise-seeking guests in the nearby Embassy Suites Hotel complained about paying hundreds of bucks a night to gaze down on what? Povertyville! For an area known for its hospitality, this would not do!

Travelers going north on Hwy 1 saw campsites, garbage, and broken bicycle parts like road signs announcing they were passing through “Poverty in Paradise.” This, too, would not do.

According to Governor Gavin Newsom, California is, indeed, both the richest and poorest state in America. It’s also true that Monterey Peninsulans prefer living in plain old “Paradise.”

So, the City of Seaside faced the boondoggle and confronted the parking problem by trying a new approach: limited hospitality.

Limited Hospitality

In a nutshell, Seaside Mayor Ian Oglesby proposed that limited hospitality be extended to the homeless vehicle dwellers, allowing them to stay out of sight in Seaside. City council debated whether to allow the campers to park one or two nights a week at Laguna Grande; it appeared this would be done, but Mayor Oglesby carried the proposition a step further. He suggested a time-and-space-share plan in which every city on the Monterey Peninsula follow Seaside’s lead by inviting the homeless campers to use their facilities in a sort of round-robin camping program, each city covering costs for hosting the campers.

No one took up Mayor Oglesby’s invitation, so a new plot was devised: while Campus Town’s development was on hold, the Roberts Lake Community could stay in an old church lot across from the Monterey College of Law. Termination date was June 15, 2021.

With City Manager Craig Malin representing Seaside, portable toilets, water, and power - basic amenities - were set up and paid for by Seaside.

While Craig Malin oversaw the project on the hill, I remained an active observer of homeless activity in vehicles on Seaside streets. One such activity involved prostitution.

Sex For Sale Near The Salvation Army

It works like this: a girl I’ll call Jane gets into John’s vehicle, directs him to her safe work spot near the Salvation Army, and performs the service for which he pays. The vehicle owner leaves the headlights on because they prevent the surveillance cameras protecting the Salvation Army from being able to discern the activity that usually occurs in the front seat.

Jane conducts her business after dark with one or more Johns, sometimes twice in a single hour and some nights not at all.

What would Craig Malin advise his successor to do, if anything, about busting the boondoggle that has allowed unsafe sex to persevere in Seaside? What about drugs?

A Few Questions For Craig Malin

Craig, before you relocate back to the milder Midwest, away from Seaside’s multi-cultural diversity, will you reflect on Boondoggery in Paradise by or before August 31? No word limit! Let it flow from your Boondoggle-Busting heart. Your successor will appreciate it!

So will I.

1. Does Boondoggle Busting work? If yes, please explain. If no, please explain.
2. What's your advice to your successor on how best to deal with homelessness?
3. Seaside, multi-racial/cultural hub, should be the exemplary "City on the Hill." Is it?

Thank you, Craig, for your wonderful service.

May the Muse be with you.

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CREDITS: Photo of Craig Malin in book cover montage courtesy of Seaside City Hall.
The Boondogger's Bible—How to Fight Like City Hall to Win!! (\$17 from author Wanda Sue Parrott,
P. O. Box 1821, Monterey, CA 93942-1821) or from amazon.com.

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<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/seaside-city-manager-resigns-to-be-with-family-take-position-in-wisconsin/ar-AALsCUC?ocid=uxbndlbing>