

The Carmel Pine Cone - December 18, 2015

P.G. council declines to ban short-term rentals

SHORT-TERM rentals will continue to be permitted in Pacific Grove but will face greater restrictions, according to a decision by the city council Wednesday night.

The council voted 4-3 in favor of allowing home vacation rentals, which generated \$300,000 in tax revenue for the city from July to October. Councilmen Robert Huitt, Dan Miller and Bill Peake voted against allowing short-term rentals to continue in any form, while the other council members supported restricting them, but not banning them.

Among the changes the council made to the program are capping the number of permitted vacation rentals at 250, and requiring landlords to provide a city-sanctioned handbook to renters urging them to be respectful to neighbors, etc., Mayor Bill Kampe told The Pine Cone.

Residents and others opposed to short-term rentals have complained about noise, parking problems and other issues. There are currently 169 legal short-term rentals in Pacific Grove and an unknown number of rentals operating without permits.

Pacific Grove charges a 10 percent transient occupancy tax for vacation rentals, the same amount it charges customers who stay overnight in the city's inns.

The council also requested that the city's staff come back with an approach to limit the concentration of short-term rentals in any given neighborhood.