



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

January 19, 2001

CITY OF COOS BAY

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CHAMBER AMBASSADORS – The City of Coos Bay wishes to express their deep appreciation for the efforts of the Chamber Ambassadors in welcoming new businesses to the City, and to apologize for not giving proper recognition to the Ambassadors in the January issue of the City News for a picture of the opening of the government access channel office. The oversight was unintentional and no slight to the work done in the community by the Chamber Ambassadors was intended. Anyone interested in participating in the Ambassador program may contact Crystal Shoji, Ambassador President, at 267-2491.

MEASURE 7 POTENTIAL IMPACT DISCUSSION – A meeting sponsored by the League of Women Voters regarding the potential impact of Measure 7 has been scheduled for Saturday, January 20, 2001 at Café 2000, 2076 Sherman Avenue, North Bend. Presentations and questions from 11 a.m. to 12 noon; a no-host luncheon will be served at 12 noon.

Coos County Commissioner Nikki Whitty will speak about the expected impact of Measure 7 implementation and the County Commissioner's response. Becky Steckler, Land Use Advocate, will present 1000 Friends of Oregon's perspective and their action to defend land use protections. The public is invited to attend the meeting. For more information contact Judith VanDuzer at 267-6508.

COOL NO VIOLENCE PEACE PROJECT – Danielle Shimotakahara of North Bend and her Cool No Violence Peace Project will have a spot on the Nick News program on violent video games and the various efforts that have been made across the nation to curb the exposure of young children to such games. The program will air on January 21st on Channel 21 at 8:30 p.m. Eastern Time.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS MADE – A record number of volunteers stepped forward to apply for openings on the Budget Committee, Parks Commission and Design Review Board. After interviewing applicants January 9th and 16th the City Council and Urban Renewal Agency voted by ballot to fill the vacancies. The City Council appointed Chris Christoffer, Renee Nelson and Reni Woods to the Budget Committee, and Beve Saukko and Keith Topits to the Parks Commission. The appointments to the Design Review Board were made by the Urban Renewal Agency and include Jim Berg, Julia Spangler, Roy McCormick, Ann Keizer and Frosty West. The Mayor and City Councilors express their appreciation to all the applicants for their interest in volunteering for the city.

HOME OCCUPATIONS – The City of Coos Bay's Land Development Ordinance No. 93 requires that any business being conducted in a residential district needs a home occupation permit. It is the intent of the provisions of the ordinance to assure that home occupations do not infringe upon the rights of other residents or alter the residential character of the area. All home occupations are subject to the approval of a special permit by submitting an application to the Community Development Department.

CITY COUNCIL POSTPONES DECISION ON MUSEUM SITING – Without meaning to delay the project in any way, Tuesday evening the City Council postponed a decision on amending its agreement with the Coos County Historic Society which was up for consideration to clarify the exact location of the new museum to be sited downtown across from the Boardwalk. The Council made its decision to postpone action only after being assured by city manager Bill Grile that doing so would not jeopardize the project's progress

in any way. And it won't. Look for this to be taken up again at the February 6th City Council meeting.

EMPIRE GATEWAY PROJECT - At its January 16th meeting, the Urban Renewal Agency postponed indefinitely the Empire Gateway Project. After looking at several different options, including roadside monuments and archways over Newmark Avenue, the Agency decided it wished to look at moving other Empire Urban Renewal projects along and address the gateway project at a later date. The Agency felt that addressing the gateway at a later date would allow the gateway to better reflect the changes occurring in the area.

BAYSHORE THEATER DISTRICT PROJECT – At the January 16 meeting, the Urban Renewal Agency approved the Bayshore Theater District Project. The project is located along the west side of Bayshore Drive between Curtis Avenue and Anderson Avenue. The project includes period lighting, a new sidewalk along Bayshore Drive and either brick pavers or stamped concrete on Bayshore and Curtis and Anderson between Bayshore and Broadway. This project will tie into the recently completed Broadway Street Scape Project.

GRASS IN MINGUS LAKE – This spring, the City will use an herbicide in Mingus Lake to kill the unwanted grass and algae that have plagued the lake the past several years. The City will lower the lake down, apply the herbicide and then replace the boards to raise the lake. The lake will contain the water while the herbicide is working and killing the grass and algae. The herbicide will not harm the lily pads or wildlife. Signs will be placed in the lake when the herbicide is applied to caution visitors not to swim or fish in the lake, as the manufacturer cautions against human consumption. The herbicide should totally eradicate the grass and algae. Spot application may be needed in the future. The City will be using a licensed aquatic applicator to perform the work.

VISITOR BATHROOMS ON HOLD – At its January 16, 2001 meeting, the City Council voted not to take action to modify the current Chamber of Commerce building to allow for a 24-hour unisex bathroom in downtown Coos Bay. After reviewing the history of downtown restroom activity, and considering all options, the Council decided to wait for 24-hour restrooms until the new Historic Museum is built on the site currently occupied by the Chamber building. Any modifications to the current building would be temporary in nature as construction is expected to start on the Historic Museum within three years. Restrooms will continue to be available to visitors at the Chamber location when the Chamber office is open, and 24-hour access restrooms are available at City Hall. City staff will place additional signage at the Chamber building directing visitors to City Hall for restroom facilities when the Chamber office is closed.

BROWNFIELD GRANT PROGRESS – Level 1 Site Assessments for participating property owners within the North Front Street Waterfront Heritage District have now been completed. The next phase of the Brownfield Program will begin shortly for those owners choosing to continue with the program. The goal of this work is to identify and plan for the removal of environmental issues that could hinder the sale of or potential use of these waterfront sensitive sites.

FUN FESTIVAL MEETING – The first Fun Festival meeting is scheduled for January 24th at 5:30 p.m. in the Port of Coos Bay meeting room at 125 Central Avenue. The Committee is looking for volunteers and ideas for a theme this year. If you have any ideas, or just want to help out, please attend the meeting.