

Survival Center resists plan to 'update' Alton Baker Paker

On Thursday night, interested persons will get a chance to comment on future development of Alton Baker Park.

The Alton Baker Park Advisory Committee has come up with a zone and sub-zone plan for the area. It is an update of the original Master Land Use Plan that was adopted in 1973.

The Update Plan was written last spring and released in August. It provides for intensive development of several areas within the park, including a boat basin, concession stands, additional roads and parking lots and a cultural center.

The Survival Center is concerned about the Update Plan, and is coordinating testimony for the Thursday night hearing before the county commissioners at 7:30 p.m. in the city council chambers.

"There was no money in 1973 to develop Alton Baker," says Center Director Jim Stratton. "The committee members never got it together."

Stratton feels the Update Plan is a belated attempt to transform Alton Baker into a "show-case park."

"The majority of the people on the advisory committee want to win national awards with the park. I don't think people understand what's happening here."

One of the center's concerns is that no provision for existing community gardens has been made in the Update. There were 150

family and 30 senior citizen sites utilized this year.

"The committee might not be planning to get rid of the gardens," Stratton says. "There's a lot of support for them, and they supply food for wildlife as well as for urban dwellers."

The Update calls for a boat basin to encourage use of the small lake in the park. Suggested facilities include boat rentals, food concessions, a park pavilion, benches and tables, bicycle rentals and major picnic facilities. Stratton feels this development is not necessary.

"Those facilities would be out of character for the park. Every other park we have here is totally structured. There's no other waterfront ecosystem in the urban area."

The center's maintenance of concession stands within the park would pose unfair competition to local businesses.

"I can see concessions at Orchard Point," Stratton says. "There's no place to go to get refreshments. But in an urban park it's not necessary."

Additional parking lots are planned for Alton Baker in the Update. One would go in by the proposed boat basin. Stratton maintains it would not be needed since the area is so close to the parking lots at Autzen Stadium.

Thursday's hearing will be the first opportunity for public comment on the Update Plan. Stratton encourages people to come and express their opinions.

Weinstein recall group adds new charge to roster

Citizens Cooperating to Recall Weinstein (CCRW) has made an addition to its list of charges that Lane County Commissioner Archie Weinstein violated state elections law.

The group said that Lane County General Services Director Don Penfold has indicated he felt and feels his job threatened by an incident that took place in Weinstein's office on Oct. 17.

In a statement filed with the secretary of state's office in Salem, CCRW asserts that Weinstein called Penfold into his office and complained that the General Services Director released word to the press that recall petitions were officially certified without having notified the commissioner.

CCRW says Weinstein complained Penfold had announced to the press that Weinstein's five days for response would begin without officially telling Weinstein.

Weinstein, according to Oregon elections law, had five days for response after a petition to recall him

was filed with the county elections division.

CCRW says that Penfold explained to Weinstein that he had given him official notice on Oct. 13, whereupon Weinstein called in Lane County Counsel Larry Shaw, who said the commissioner was given adequate notice.

CCRW claims that Weinstein reacted by saying if that was the case, as soon as the recall was over, some resignations would be requested.

The incident was added to a list of allegations that included a complaint that Weinstein's aide, George Kramer, worked on a recall effort against Commissioner Jerry Rust on county time and that Kramer attempted to intimidate Penfold.

CCRW says the attorney general's office has ruled that the incidents cited in the elections law violation complaint filed last week would constitute election law violations if the facts are as suggested.

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Gold incites modern rush

(AP) — In something of a modern-day Gold Rush, people are buying gold jewelry and coins in increasing numbers - despite rising prices - as their confidence in the dollar dwindles, dealers say.

"People are beginning to adopt a gold mentality like that of Europe, where you buy some gold to tuck under the mattress," Martin Skolnik, president of Wasko Gold Products, a New York-based jewelry manufacturer and wholesaler, said Monday as the price of bullion went above \$245 an ounce in London.

The price of 24-carat gold has gone up more than 40 percent since January. That means a plain 14-carat wedding band that cost \$70 last year now costs about \$100. But Skolnik said jewelry sales are increasing.

"People are interested not only for the aesthetic value but for the intrinsic value as well." He predicted an increase in the volume of sales this year of about 10 percent.

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