

City listens to pros and cons

Public views West University plan

By MIKE ANDERSON
Of the Emerald

Residents, businessmen and medical industry representatives voiced their opinions on the proposed West University Refinement Plan to the Eugene Planning Commission Tuesday night.

If approved by the city council, city planners will consult the proposal when making planning and land use decisions. The plan deals with transportation and parking, public facilities and services, neighborhood design and land use, and housing and commerce in the West University neighborhood.

The proposal was drafted by the West University Planning Team to reflect the interests of the West University neighborhood, the South University neighborhood, the University, Northwest Christian College, the downtown business area, Sacred Heart Hospital and nearby churches.

The refinement area is bounded by

the University on the east, Willamette Street on the west, Franklin Boulevard and Broadway Avenue on the north, and 19th Avenue on the south. A small

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section west of Agate Street between the University and 19th Street also is included in the proposal.

About 65 percent of the area's 6,500 residents are students.

While neighborhood residents

seemed supportive of the plan, a land use committee from the Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce expressed what they felt were inadequacies in the refinement plan.

Steve Brye, representing the Campbell Club co-op, approved of the plan. He said the proposal will make the area more liveable for students, and he favors the provisions that call for more park facilities.

Brye also spoke in favor of the proposal's limit on expansion of private clinics.

He said, however, there is a way the neighborhood can be preserved and the medical industry can continue to expand.

"We are a tolerant neighborhood," he said, but he felt West University should not have to absorb all area medical expansion.

Garr Cutler, a doctor who practices in the West University area, told the commission, "People are ill advised to

think the clinics are their enemy."

Cutler said clinics do not blast their stereos, do not leave their trash dumpsters unemptied and do not attract drifters and transients.

Sarah Mahler, an area resident and West University Planning Team member, said there should be "harmony between where one works, where one shops and where one socializes."

The Chamber of Commerce Land Use Subcommittee was more critical of the proposal. The subcommittee attacked the treatment of commercial issues and economic elements of the community, and protested the lack of an adequate study and relevant data.

Tom Slocum of Slocum Associates, Inc., voiced strong opposition to the proposal. He claimed the whole city should be taken into consideration.

"This plan leaves gigantic uncertainties," he said.

Woman speaks on water policy

A slide show and discussion on the public's right to the natural resources of the Pacific Northwest will be held tonight at 7 p.m. in the Emerald Baptist Church at 19th Avenue and Patterson Street.

Diane Jones from the Idaho Citizens Coalition, will speak on her recently published study, "Water, Energy and Land — Public Resources and Irrigation Development in the Pacific Northwest: Who Benefits and Who Pays."

Her research indicates Oregon, Washington and Idaho have been promoting irrigation development. She says allocation of water for irrigation must be viewed as a matter of public policy.

The speech is sponsored by Clergy and Laity Concerned. Childcare will be provided.



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