

At Eugene block-grant hearing

Residents pitch fund-spending plans

By MARIAN GREEN
Of the Emerald

About 35 Eugene residents made their pitches to the Eugene City Council Tuesday night, asking that revenue-sharing dollars be spent on items ranging from bikepaths and housing rehabilitation to a safer downtown area.

At the public hearing, neighborhood groups and social-service agencies suggested ways to spend federal money obtained through the Community Development Block Grant Plan.

Under a tentative time schedule, the city will prepare a three-year community development plan, scheduled for adoption Nov. 9, and will call for grant applications for the first year (1982-83) of the three-year plan in the middle of November.

The city expects to receive about \$1 million in block-grant money for the 1982-83 fiscal year.

About 15 citizens testified for neighborhood and social service agencies at the meeting.

Veracocha Starr, of the Bethel Triangle neighborhood, asked the council to construct bikepaths in his neighborhood, which is bounded by Southern Pacific railroad tracks and U.S. Highway 99.

"There's a need for a safe

bikepath for access to recreation areas," Starr said. "We're virtually cut off because of the train yards and Highway 99."

Starr said the Bethel area has only a "rough road" that is "very hazardous." In the last two years, a person was killed in a traffic accident along the road, he said.

Whiteaker neighbor Robert Ennons expressed concerns about increased traffic on Fifth Avenue and Blair Street (residential streets), and suggested grant money be used to study means of diverting that traffic.

Ennons said he's worried that Fifth Avenue will become "a major downtown arterial" like Sixth and Seventh avenues.

Don Schmieding, a Eugene native, urged city councilors to "consider the need to spend energy and some of the dollars on the transient population." He suggested studying ways to help transient groups such as runaway youths, alcoholics and the mentally ill.

Schmieding warned that as Eugene grows, it may face transient concentrations in one area, such as the Downtown mall. "It happened in Portland," he said, referring to the Burnside transient area.

Schmieding said that although the downtown area should

be the "center of our city," it isn't.

"Too many (citizens) aren't convinced that it's a safe place to go," he said.

Another citizen echoed Schmieding's remarks and called for building a center

where transients could go to receive help.

"You can cover the mall and relocate the buses, but I'm still not going to go downtown until you clean up the other problems," said Eugene resident Jean Bates.

The council approved a preliminary staff draft document of community development needs and will review a new draft proposal, based on the public hearing testimony and staff recommendations, at the Oct. 21 council meeting.

Sweeping job changes lead Moore to Suite Four

One day a foreman at McDonnell Douglas, the airplane manufacturer, told 19-year-old John Moore to sweep the floor. A fellow worker grabbed him and told him he didn't have to sweep floors because he had a union contract as a drill-press operator.

Such began the career of the ASUO's new executive coordinator.

After majoring in political philosophy at California State-Fullerton and the University of California at San Diego, the ambitious Moore moved through the ranks of a teacher's union, the United Auto Workers, and other unions before becoming involved in higher-education politics.

ASUO Pres. Rich Wilkins met Moore through the Oregon Student Lobby, which represents students at the Legislature. There Moore searched the higher-education budget to suggest possible cuts.

"It was a difficult position," he says. "I probably know as much about the budget cuts as anybody." While Moore understandably prefers his proposed cuts to the Legislature's, only about half of them were accepted.

Moore calls the result a "disaster."

"Tuition will climb through 1983 and 1985 and access will be denied on an arbitrary basis," Moore says. He says that research shows students with 2.35 high-school grade point averages are just as likely to succeed in college as those with 2.75 averages.

"Why not throw them all in a hat and select them that way?"

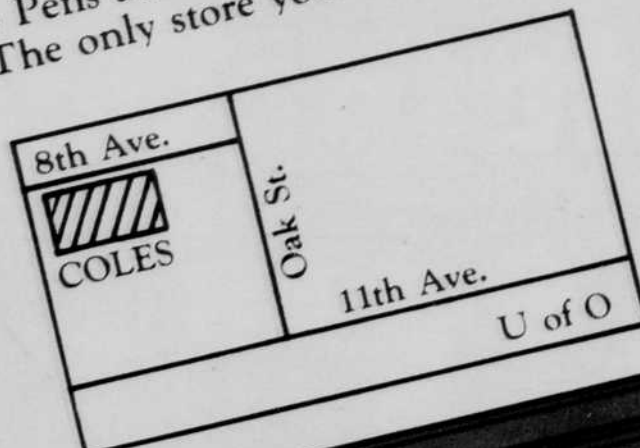
Moore's new ASUO job requires him to analyze the student budget instead of the state's. He oversees the ASUO's financial dealings with the athletic department, and is planning a student development foundation to supplement the University's fundraising foundation.

Besides budget work, Moore coordinates the office of student advocacy, which — offers paralegal services — any legal service a non-lawyer can provide — to about 350 people a year. Moore says about half of the cases he and his five third-year law students handle deal with violations of the student conduct code, but they can also handle problems students might have with the city, landlords, police, etc.

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