

Parking plan review

Employees' letter sparks city hearing

By Michele Matassa
Of the Emerald

The controversial West University Neighborhood parking plan will come under the gun tonight at 7:30 p.m. as the Eugene City Council hears public testimony concerning an appeal of the plan.

The city scheduled the hearing, to be held at the City Council Chamber, 777 Pearl Street, after 24 Sacred Heart Hospital employees wrote a letter to City Council members asking them to reconsider the plan's boundaries and fee structure, says Barb Bellamy, city public information director.

The plan, if implemented, will limit parking in the area bound by Hilyard Street on the east, 18th Avenue on the south, Oak Street on the west and Franklin Boulevard on the north.

Those wishing to park longer than two hours will have to purchase permits for \$17.50 per month or \$1.50 per day. Residents will receive free permits.

The City Council, after two previous public hearings, passed a resolution in March authorizing a grant for a "demonstration" parking plan in the West University Neighborhood, Bellamy says. At the time, specific fees for the permits weren't set and boundaries weren't certain, she says.

The City Council decided to accept the hospital employees' letter as an appeal of administrative procedure because "setting

that fee is an administrative decision," Bellamy says.

Lori Kloch, a hospital employee who sign-

ed the letter of appeal, says she doesn't know of administrative process, but simply doesn't want the parking plan implemented.

"For one, a lot of us park in the street. We don't want to pay to park in the hospital parking structure," Kloch says.

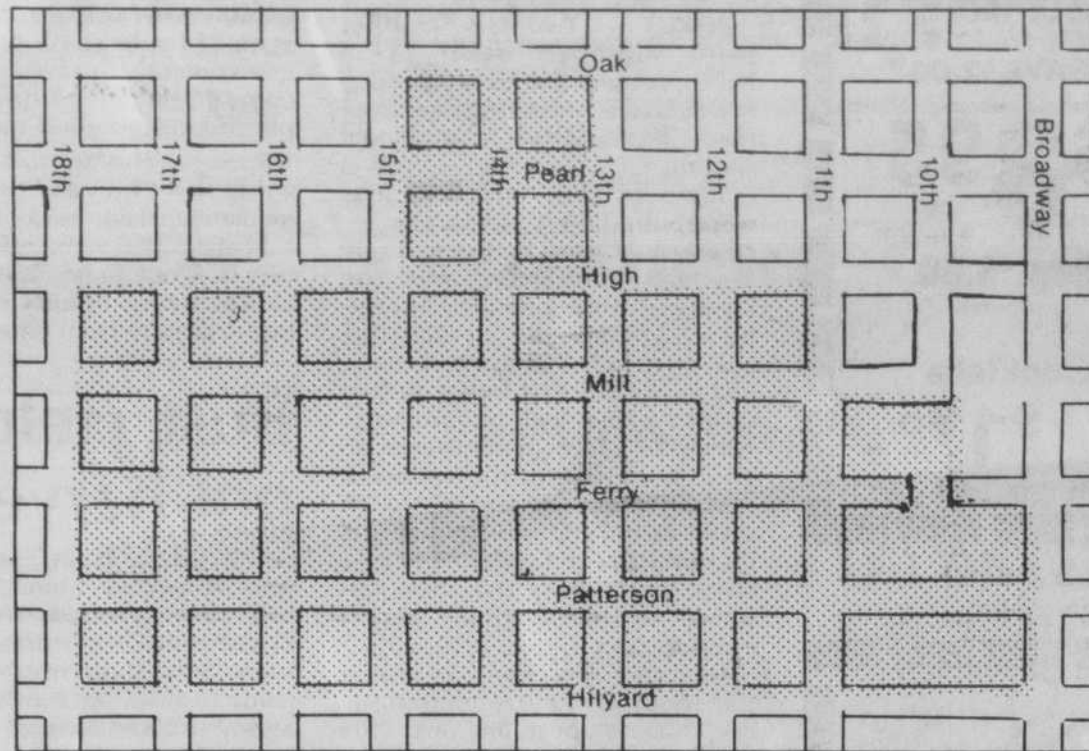
She doubts many employees will speak up at tonight's hearing because they think the matter is "already settled." Kloch said she hopes to see students and small-business employees at the hearing.

The University Small Business Association supports the plan with a "wait and see attitude," says Jamie Douglas, USBA president.

Phil Kimmel, USBA representative on the committee advising the city's parking administration, told the Emerald last week that the association wouldn't consider the plan "ideal" because it limits employees and shoppers.

But Douglas, as the USBA's official spokesperson, says the association is "real familiar with the parking problems in the University area" and accepted the program as an experimental solution.

"I'm sure there are businesses in the area that have concerns," but those people probably are not completely informed about the issue, she says.



Graphic by Shawn Bird

Outdoor Pursuits verges on minor eligibility

By Melissa Martin
Of the Emerald

The University Outdoor Pursuits, one of the largest in the nation, is a step closer to becoming a minor program on campus after the undergraduate council approved the process last Wednesday.

The "land-based certificate program" must be approved at a faculty meeting this month before it officially becomes an option for University students to minor in, says Jim Blanchard, Outdoor Pursuits coordinator.

"I've searched far and wide, and I've not found a program as big as this one," Blanchard says.

The Outdoor Pursuits certificate covers skills like backpacking, snow camping, mountaineering, rock climbing, hiking, canoeing and ski touring.

Blanchard says the program, "nestled

within the physical education department," offers students a change of pace and a chance to get off campus.

The University program is one of the few that teaches leadership skills in addition to outdoor pursuit skills, he says. Students who take the leadership classes get practical experience and later can help with instruction in the program.

The Outdoor Pursuit Program is divided into two areas: one for P.E. majors and a specialized, elaborate program for students seeking the Outdoor Pursuits certificate which usually takes full-time students two or three years to complete.

Students from all disciplines — Blanchard mentioned law students and chemistry and journalism majors — taking full academic loads are involved in the program. The program helps build self-confidence, he says.

Blanchard says the University classes give students a better, cheaper program than private groups around the country that offer limited summer activities at higher costs.

The Outdoor Pursuits currently is a land-based program, but Blanchard says he hopes to see the program expand to water-based activities in the future.

Students begin the program with "Wilderness Ethics and Safety," continue with a preparation course and advance to various levels of outing classes which involve a three-day trip to Oregon's wilderness areas.

Students who take the backpacking class should be in "reasonable physical condition" and able to run two miles in 20 minutes. Mountaineering students should run the same in 18 minutes.

Outdoor Pursuits gives students "a lot

for their time and a lot for their money," Blanchard says.

"We go at it aggressively."

He calls the weekly outings an "intense experience" spent "running like mad."

"We give a higher quality than most private programs," Blanchard says. "It's a good deal for your money."

The \$36 students pay for an Outdoor Pursuits class covers the University's \$20 P.E. fee as well as the \$16 needed for transportation and equipment cost.

The program provides tents, tarps, ropes, snow shovels, climbing gear and winter camping equipment. Students must provide clothing, boots, packs and food.

Students will finish the program with experience in a wide range of outdoor pursuits and the ability to pass on the learned skills to others, Blanchard says.

Oregon politicians react to Watt's resignation

SALEM (AP) — Gov. Vic Atiyeh said Sunday he hopes President Reagan will consult with western governors before nominating a replacement for Interior Secretary James Watt. Other Oregon leaders were delighted by Watt's resignation.

Atiyeh had kind words for Watt after the interior secretary announced his resignation.

"While we had some disagreements with Secretary Watt over some key issues, for Oregon's part, he always was accessible and he was always willing to listen to our problems," Atiyeh

said.

"All interior secretaries have come under a great deal of pressure," he added.

"Because of the importance of this position to the West, I am personally very concerned about who will be chosen as the next Interior Secretary," Atiyeh said.

He said he felt Energy Secretary Donald Hodel would be an excellent choice. Hodel, an Oregon native and former head of the Bonneville Power Administration, was Watt's top assistant before taking the energy secretary job.

"Having fought with this man across the witness table for nearly three years, I can't think of anyone I'll miss less," said Rep. Les AuCoin, D-Ore.

"The real issue now is not that the administration has shed itself of a political liability, but whether it will name a successor who will manage our resources prudently and with a sense of balance," AuCoin said.

Rep. Jim Weaver, another Oregon Democrat and longtime Watt foe, didn't try to hide his pleasure with Watt's resignation.

"I'm glad it's over, but it should never have begun," he said.

John Charles, executive director of the Oregon Environmental Council, said he is worried Reagan will appoint "another zealot who is not so much of a buffoon" to replace Watt.

Andy Kerr, associate director of the Oregon Natural Resources Council, called Watt the most anti-environment Interior Secretary in the history of the job.

Eugene lumberman Peter Murphy, a member of the Republican

National Committee, said he was sorry, but not surprised, to see Watt go.

"It's a loss for the Department of Interior and the fine job that Secretary Watt did there," Murphy said. "But I believe that maybe the president has a chance to appoint an Oregonian to that high post."

Murphy, who sent a telegram last month urging President Reagan not to fire Watt, said he hoped the president would give Hodel top consideration for the job.

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