

University, city start 'nuts and bolts' planning for park

By Steve Lundgren
Of the Emerald

With the majority of ethical, legal and conceptual questions decided, the University and the city of Eugene initiated the nuts and bolts planning of the controversial Riverfront Research Park on Thursday night at a community forum in the Eugene Community Conference Center.

The forum, which attracted more than 100 citizens, was planned as a "listening session" for city and University officials, architects and planning consultants to gain input from the public. While the future construction of the park is all but assured, its actual form has yet to be decided.

Practical considerations such as building design, landscaping, access and recreational compatibility were the main focus of the forum. But op-

ponents of the park and its proposed site interrupted the speakers several times, calling for a change of agenda.

Opponents of the project wanted site selection the top issue to be discussed. A man called for a straw vote at one point, and after several requests to allow the speakers to continue, Olum jumped to the Microphone and said the agenda would not be changed and that the site has been decided.

Olum, the city of Eugene, the Riverfront Design Advisory Committee and the Riverfront Research Park Commission sponsored the meeting. Maureen McAvey of the Carley Capital Group, the company overseeing the park's planning, discussed the company's role. Carley will market the park and coordinate planning between the University, city and architects.

After opening remarks and explanations, the audience divided into groups of seven to 10 people with a facilitator to discuss each agenda item and express ideas. At the end of the forum, each group's best ideas were submitted to the officials and the entire audience.

Barney Elbasani of the architectural firm Elbasani and Logan, which will be designing the buildings, discussed problems planners face. The site an unusual one with several major difficulties to overcome, he said.

The site, which is on 73 acres of University land between the Willamette River and Franklin Boulevard, has existing buildings, river frontage, bicycle and running paths as well as a railroad running through its middle that must be considered in the plan, Elbasani said.

Because of these barriers, the actual usable space is about 59 acres, and at least 40 percent of this land must be open with no buildings or parking lots because of land use laws.

At this point Elbasani's firm has gathered information on the area's topography, buildings, zoning, access and physical barriers, but hasn't begun designing the park.

A main concern expressed by many people at the forum, and one which will probably have a strong effect on the park's plan-

ning, is the desire to maintain the area's scenic quality. It will be necessary to find a balance between this and the requirements of prospective companies at the park, Elbasani said. This will affect building size, structure and height.

Thursday night's forum was the first of three public forums on the project. A forum tentatively scheduled for April 16 will cover specific problems facing project, and another planned for May 21 will look at the forming master plan.

Et al.

MEETINGS

The International Studies Association will meet today in Room 100 Hendricks at 4. Featured speaker will be Dr. Charles Griffin from the economics department.

Faith Center's College-Age Bible Study will meet tonight at the House of His Presence, 1050 Patterson at 7:30.

LECTURES

"Is Film theory Really Dead?" is the topic of a lecture by Bertrand Augst today at 4:30 in Room 109 Friendly.

MISCELLANEOUS

The Society for Creative Anachronism will re-enact the proceedings of a medieval English court of law in Room

129 Law School Saturday at 2:30.

Deadline for submitting Et als to the Emerald front desk, 300 EMU, is noon the day before publication. Et als are run only once. Events with a donation or admission charge will not be considered. Events occurring nearest the publication date and campus events will be given priority.

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