

Research park location opposed by students

By Will Holbert
Of the Emerald

The fate of the Southbank Riverside soccer field was among the topics discussed Tuesday night at a Eugene Planning Commission public hearing on the proposed Riverfront Research Park.

Concerns about the field, which is located between the railroad tracks and the Autzen Stadium footbridge, were raised by three University students who attended the meeting. Students often use the field for soccer and other sports events.

Dan Stotter, a law student at the University, appealed to the commissioners during public testimony to consider student opposition to the research park, particularly any changes to the Southbank field.

"The City should realize that

Field displacement topic of public hearing

it will be negatively affecting a large group of its constituents," Stotter said of the city's support for the research park.

Stotter also read to the commissioners a student ballot measure he's proposing for the upcoming ASUO election. The ballot measure would make student opposition to construction on the field official and calls for the appointment of a liaison to the University Planning Office who would lobby for preserving the field.

Before the meeting, Stotter said opposition to building on the Southbank field has been the broadest consensus that he's ever seen. "Everyone is really appalled at losing that field," he said.

According to John Moseley, the vice president of research at the University, President Paul Olum guaranteed in a letter that other land would be found to replace the Southbank field.

But Jason Winnett, a Eugene resident, thinks the field and the south bank are too valuable to be replaced. Supporters of the research park emphasized, however, that the area would be maintained as a pleasant recreation area, with public access and strict zoning rules designed to preserve the bike path.

"You can't do both at the same time," Winnett said about claims that a natural atmosphere could be preserved with the research park. Winnett

also voiced concerns about the environmental impact of the park, requesting the commissioners keep in mind the lives of animals in the area and plant life.

The Riverfront Research Park Commission, which promotes the development of the proposed complex, has submitted to the Planning Commission changes it recommends in zoning laws governing the proposed site of the research park.

The recommendations would be incorporated into zoning laws for a special development district. The recommendations include rules guaranteeing visual access to the Willamette River, "solar access" for the bike path and the underground installation of utilities.

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MEETINGS

There will be a public meeting on the Science Complex tonight at 7:30 in Room 16 Science I.

Alpha Kappa Psi, Professional Business Fraternity, membership meets tonight at 6:30 in Room 336 Gilbert.

The Women's Task Force meets tonight at 5 in Century Room F, EMU. For more information, call 686-3724.

Public Relations Students Society of America is having elections tonight at 5 in 301A Allen.

ASUO Elections Board meets every Wednesday at 3:30 p.m. and every Saturday at 3 p.m. in the EMU Conference Room, Suite 3. All are invited.

MISCELLANEOUS

The Eugene Sports Program is urgently seeking volunteer coaches for spring soccer. Coaches are still needed for boys and girls teams in grades one through eight. Games begin April 11 and last through May 2. ESP seeks men and women over the age of 18 who like children, are willing to learn about coaching and have about four to six hours to commit per week. Interested persons should call the Eugene Sports Program, 683-2373.

"Job Opportunities in the Peace Movement," a free presentation with representatives from six groups and literature from many more, will be held today at 2 in the EMU Forum Room. Sponsored by SCD and Peace Week. For more information, call 686-4248.

German language retreat at the coast: sign up in Room 312 Friendly by Wednesday, April 8. For more information, call Helmut Plant, 686-4059.

The Committee for Musical Arts is sponsoring two workshops with New York composer/flutist Robert Dick. A flute master class will be held at 2 today in Gerlinger Lounge. A composition seminar will happen tonight at 7:30 in Room 192 at the School of Music. For more information, call 686-3761.

Public distribution of USDA surplus commodities — cheese, butter and rice — takes place today from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the EMU. Eligible Lane County residents should bring verification of their address.

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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