

Community

Pankow set to build downtown office complex

Project estimated at \$20 million

By Catherine Hawley
Emerald Reporter

A vision of downtown Eugene in the works for years will be one step closer to reality when ground is broken after Jan. 1 for a \$20 million office/retail complex.

The Pankow Development Co. of Altadena, Calif., has been working for more than a year to negotiate an agreement with the city to build an 11-story office tower on the corner of Eighth Avenue and Willamette Street, said Bob Hirschman, of the Eugene Planning and Development Department.

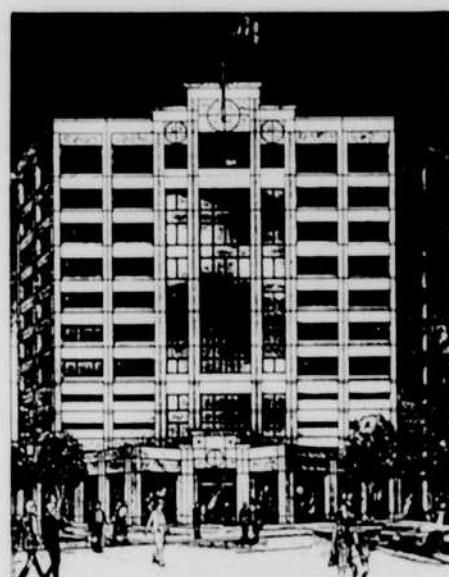
"This building is in keeping with Oregon land use law and with plans for a more intensely developed core," in downtown, said Bob Hirschman, of the Eugene Planning and Development department.

Eugene's planning director, Abe Farkas, announced at Wednesday's city council meeting that the city would finance the construction of a public parking structure that will be incorporated into the office tower.

The city of Eugene proposes

to build a 450-space public parking garage on the first four levels of the complex at a cost of \$6 million. A tax-exempt bond issue would generate \$5 million, and another \$1 million would come out of the city's parking reserve fund.

The parking garage, which would provide monthly long-



term parking in addition to short-term parking at hourly rates, should generate about \$300,000 a year for the city to use for other urban renewal

projects, Farkas said.

Pankow Co. tried to arrange a loan from the city to finance a private 200-space parking garage for tower employees, but it was not economically feasible, Hirschman said.

"It just became apparent that a city the size of Eugene couldn't generate enough money from parking fees for Pankow to make payments on that debt," he said.

Pankow was the first developer to show an interest in the property, although the land has been on the market since the early 1970s.

The property was formed under Eugene's Urban renewal plan, in which the city bought many small plots of land to consolidate and sell for development.

The office tower was at the center of controversy earlier this year when a proposal to locate the Eugene Public Library in the tower's lower floors came before voters in March. The proposal was rejected.

The design of the building was altered slightly after the library proposal was rejected, Hirschman said. More space was allotted for retail and com-

mercial use and all parking areas were moved above ground.

No tenants for the building have yet been announced, although U.S. Bank and the law firm of Harrang, Long, Watkinson, Arnold and Laird have been negotiating with Pankow, Hirschman said.

Under a pre-development agreement with the city, Pankow has until Dec. 1 to sign lessees for 40 percent of tower space and to find construction financing. A public hearing concerning the Eighth and Willamette project and other downtown construction projects will be held Nov. 6 at 7:30 p.m.

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Anti-driftnet group meets today

Survival Center Driftnet and Tuna/Dolphin meets today at 4 p.m. in EMU Suite 1. All are welcome.

Et als

Student Health Insurance Committee meets today at 1 p.m. in EMU Century Room E. All interested students are welcome to attend. For more information, call the ASUO Health Insurance Office at 686-3702.

International Student Christian Fellowship meets every Friday night at the Alpha Omega house behind Taylor's Tavern. All are welcome.

Students for Anachronism, a group that enjoys re-creating the flavor Middle Ages through the use of costumes and activities, will meet tonight at 6 p.m. in the EMU Walnut Room. The group will discuss ways in which Medieval people celebrated Halloween. All students are welcome, and medieval costumes are encouraged.

East Campus Planning Subcommittee meets this morning from 8:30 to 10 a.m. in EMU Cedar rooms C and D.

SPEAKERS AND LECTURES

"Ellis Lawrence: His Life and Work" is the title of a presentation to be given by Prof. Michael Shellenberger and Kimberly Lakin. The presentation will be given today at 4 p.m. in 177 Lawrence Hall. This is one of the events for the Alumni Jubilee Weekend.

MISCELLANEOUS

Annual Fall Reception will be held at the Oregon Daily Emerald

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