

Skateboard enthusiasts ask city council to build skate facilities

By Alice Thornton
Emerald Reporter

Skateboarders and parents filled City Council chambers for a hearing Tuesday to show their support of the construction of a series of skateboard parks in Eugene.

Following the hearing, the Joint Parks Committee will consider the comments of the public's testimony and possibly add an amendment to the Eugene Parks and Recreation Plan.

The amendment will allow the parks to be considered for capital improvement funding. Estimated cost of the parks is \$80,000 to \$100,000.

The idea for the proposed skateboard parks resulted from four months of research by the city's Skateboard Task Team which formed in September following a City Council ban on sidewalk skateboarding in the downtown mall.

The City Council effected the ban because of complaints from Lane Transit District and con-

cerned citizens.

Cheryl Zwillinger, president of the Eugene Commission on the Rights of Youth and a member of the Task Team said the team found a definite need for skateboard facilities.

"If the City Council is going to keep telling the kids they can't skateboard on the mall or in parks, they need to give them a place to go," Zwillinger said.

"Providing a single facility for skateboarders would not be an appropriate solution," she said.

The Task Team proposed construction of eight mini-parks near each Eugene middle school, one central outdoor skateboard facility and one indoor ramp. Eleven possible outdoor sites and 4 indoor sites have been recommended by the Task Team as suitable locations.

The Task Team suggested the National Skateboard Association and a local youth group like the Boy Scouts run and manage the indoor ramp.

Zwillinger said liability for the outdoor parks would be assumed by the city while liability for the indoor ramp would be assumed by the NSA.

John Ebenol, a member of the Task Team, said other cities in Oregon have constructed similar parks. Skateboard parks have been in Corvallis, Bandon and Cannon Beach and a park is being constructed in Myrtle Creek.

"It seems there are already plenty of other cities getting involved in what's going on," Ebenol said.

Richard Green, chairperson of the Public Safety Advisory Commission said as a concerned parent and community member he supports the park.

"PSAC voted to support the plan as presented in the report," Green said. "The most important part of this testimony is what youths desire, not what adults desire."

Mike McCoy, Physical Education Coordinator for Shasta Middle School said there are a few problems associated with skateboarding.

Injuries to skateboarders and damage to property usually results from skating in inappropriate places, he said. In spite of these problems, McCoy said as a PE teacher, he supports the park.

"Skateboarding is an appropriate form of athletic expression," McCoy said. "I would much rather have them doing that than sitting at home doing nothing."

Ernie Drapela, director of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services and a member of the Task Team, said the amendment that may result from Tuesday's hearing will be the topic of another hearing during an April 3 Planning Commission meeting.

IFC Continued from Page 4

for the (University) administration to take it over," Nhem said. "The allotment is so miniscule and the potential of the benefit is so immense, for \$940 going to help a lot of people, I say, go for it."

After the committee had unsuccessfully voted on several successive revised budgets, Revill accepted an amendment dropping the scholarship line item, which brought the budget request almost back to its 1989-90 budget.

In other business the IFC allocated budget increases to three groups and a budget decrease to one.

Innovative Educational Development, which offers extracurricular course taught by students and community members, received a \$9,845 allocation for the 1990-91 budget season, a 3.4 percent decrease from last year's budget of \$10,195.

The IFC voted 4-0-2, with Revill and IFC member Steve Maples abstaining, to

allocate the Recreation and Intramurals program \$76,482, a 0.59 percent increase from the 1989-90 budget season's allocation of \$76,032.

The committee also voted to allocate the Oregon Marching Band \$78,924, a 5.2 percent increase from last year's allocation.

The ESCAPE Field Studies Program received \$13,982, a 2.2 percent increase over last year's budget.

The United States Student Association budget was postponed pending further study and of Tim Hughes' return from Washington, D.C. Hughes, the USSA North West Pacific region chairman, is lobbying Congress on legislation affecting financial aid.

The Asian Pacific American Student Association rescheduled its budget hearing.

U of O Song and Dance, which failed to attend its Feb. 22 hearing, also has rescheduled.

Police Beat

The following is a list of campus area crimes taken from Office of Public Safety and Eugene Police Department reports between Feb. 20 and Feb. 27:

- EPD cited a University student on Feb. 27 for the Feb. 2 theft of a Moore Hall couch. An anonymous tip advised the couch was stored in a resident's room in Willcox Hall. OPS and EPD then observed the couch on a visit to the resident's room. The student was cited and released for petty larceny.
- The theft of a \$250 car stereo from the Bean Complex parking lot was reported to EPD on Feb. 23. There were no signs of

forced entry to the vehicle.

- A \$106 staff parking permit was reported stolen to EPD on Feb. 21. The permit was stolen from the University parking lot at 12th Avenue and Alder Street.

- A case of criminal mischief and theft at the Bean Complex parking lot was reported to OPS on Feb. 20. An unknown suspect slashed a University student's convertible top, causing \$1,000 damage, and stole a \$200 car stereo.

- A quick-release bike seat was reported stolen from Gerlinger Hall to OPS on Feb. 20.

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