

Group will propose idea for saving Amazon Housing

Lori Bettineski
Oregon Daily Emerald

Eugene City Councilman Kevin Hornbuckle and Amazon Housing attorney Daniel Stotter will attempt to persuade the state Board of Higher Education today to consider a new proposal aimed at protecting Amazon from demolition.

The proposal that Hornbuckle and Stotter will present to the board during its meeting at Western Oregon State College involves the possibility of the Save Amazon Committee purchasing the property from the University.

According to David Zupan, a member of Citizens for Low-Income Housing, the Save Amazon Committee is ready and willing to buy the property from the University, "with a good faith effort to preserve the property as an historic, low-income housing site for students."

Stotter and Hornbuckle will also explain to the board why the committee's proposal is unable to go forward at this time under the University's current bid plan.

The minimum bid that the University is accepting for Amazon is \$500,000 cash for improvements, plus a minimum exchange for Amazon with a clear title to land that meets specific criteria. The criteria include 14.125 contiguous acres with a distance in any one direction (from property line to property line) of no more than 1,000 feet, property that is within six-tenths of a mile from the intersection of East 13th Avenue and Kincaid Street, clear of any development and any significant vegetation that would reduce its developable area.

Yet Pat Saisi, a member of Citizens for Low-Income Housing, contends such requirements make it impossible for anyone, including the Save Amazon Committee, to make a reasonable bid under the current standards set by the University.

"No other public land property exists in an area that must be within six-tenths of a mile from the intersection of East 13th Avenue and Kincaid," Saisi said. "Over half that property is already owned by the University with a big portion owned by Sacred Heart (General Hospital).

What remains is no 14.125 contiguous acres owned by any one party, no 14.125 contiguous acres free of development, no part significantly free of vegetation and no single owner with enough land to meet this requirement, even if they joined with surrounding neighbors."

Stotter and Hornbuckle plan to explain Saisi's point to the board and ask them to hold off on a demolition proposal until consideration can be given to the committee's new buying proposal.

"The Save Amazon Committee is prepared to pay fair market value to purchase the property and protect it as a national historic landmark," Stotter said. "The board needs to know the University hasn't followed state mandates in protecting Amazon as historic property and that they should hold off on demolition until such legal issues have been examined."

The University is expected to obtain a demolition permit as early as mid-January, though the permit could be delayed until early April.

Student Senate listens to opinions on incidental fees

Friederich von Carp
Oregon Daily Emerald

Student Senate took a lesson in electoral politics Thursday night when it solicited opinions on allocating student's incidental fees.

Facing the same dilemma as the federal and state congresses, the student senate must weigh the competing pleas of more funding for student programs and less burdensome incidental fees.

The ASUO Programs Finance Committee, which makes budget recommendations to the senate, after the meeting agreed to recommend a one percent decrease in the overall funding of ASUO programs. ASUO programs con-

stitute 28.9 percent of the incidental fee.

Sixteen program representatives spoke at the hearing, six of whom were OSPIRG members. Six non-affiliated students also spoke, including Skye Pixton, a self-described "poor college student." Pixton urged the senate to reduce incidental fees.

"There have been a lot of groups in here saying they want their money, but there aren't a lot of students who are just students. I feel that I'm representing a large group who don't have time to come here... and who are going into debt."

"Groups say, 'We're concerned with this,'" she said, "well, it's fine you're concerned but I don't necessarily want to

pay for it.

"I question any groups that lobby, like OSPIRG or USSA, and I question any group that deals with race, religion or sexual orientation," Pixton said.

Students last spring approved a ballot measure to fund OSPIRG with \$137,775, or 2.6 percent of the incidental fee.

Katy Anthes, an OSPIRG member, answered the fee-cutting sentiment. "We're here at the University for other things than just to get book smart. We just don't graduate and go out in the world and say, 'Oh, I've done my Biology 101 and Psychology 203 and now I know all the issues.'"

OSPIRG State Board Chair Kalpana Krishnamurthy added,

"Student fees is how we got named *Mother Jones* 'number one most active campus.'"

The Athletic Department, which received \$1,009,982 in student fees came under fire at the hearing.

"I'm not in favor of funding the Athletic Department," said student Hans Kuhn, who asked the senate to lower incidental fees.

"The people who disapprove of subsidizing this form of entertainment don't speak out. They are a silent majority," he said.

Senator Joey Lyons pointed out that the bulk of increases in student fees have resulted from ballot measures, not the actions of the fee committee.

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