

Eugene Historic Review board approved the UofO's application to demolish the Amazon Housing complex.

AMAZON

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property.

The board's decision to approve the application is now effective unless it is appealed to the City Council.

Daniel Stotter, an attorney representing the Save Amazon Coalition, said an appeal to the City Council is the next step for the group and that the appeal will be issued immediately.

"It's far from over," Stotter said. "I think we're going to see further action by the Save Amazon Coalition and other organizations to protect this property both for low-income housing and its historic value."

Stotter said the only way he believes the complex can be preserved is to have an outside non-profit organization buy the site at fair market value, an offer he claims University officials are not willing to accept.

"Amazon Community Housing Inc. has put in a bid to buy the property at fair market value, they've demonstrated funding opportunities and they've demonstrated that they have the (ability) to run a cooperative that would preserve low-income housing and historic values," Stotter said, "yet the University will not work with this organization. They've shown no willingness to be a good neighbor and work with the community on this issue."

Despite the narrow 3-2 vote, Mike Eyster, director of University Housing, said the board's decision Thursday was in the best interest of students and the University.

"This was absolutely the right decision for the board to make," Eyster said. "It has been our goal since last September to replace the site with safer, affordable,

long-lasting housing and the board made a decision that allows us to continue to move in that direction."

Several supporters in favor of preserving Amazon have questioned this goal because of the high rates University housing officials plan to charge for the new units.

According to University housing reports, two-bedroom units would rent for around \$400 per month if the first phase of construction is completed by fall 1996. Currently, two-bedroom apartments at Amazon rent for \$185.

In efforts to maintain these low rates, three separate parties are trying to work out a plan to move the units to another site instead of demolishing them. The city of Eugene, Terry McDonald, Director of St. Vincent and an anonymous third party are now looking at the possibility of preserving the units by placing them at another location.

Eyster said Thursday that the way the University's demolition contract will be written, demolition contractors can clear the site in any legal manner desired.

"If clearing the site by the contractors involves moving the buildings, then that is perfectly acceptable to us," Eyster said. "We're working with the city and hopefully we can come to an agreement on a way to at least move some of the buildings to the city site."

All appeals to the board's decision Thursday must be made within the next 10 days. Afterward, the City Council must conduct a public hearing within 60 days of the date the appeal was filed to determine whether further delay of the demolition is needed.

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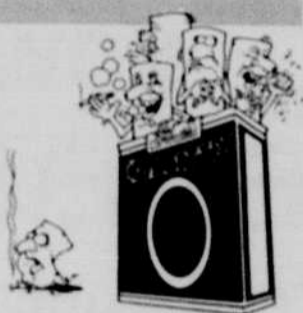
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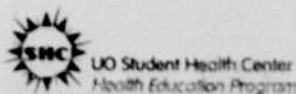
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