

HILLSDALE NOTEBOOK

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was Dr. Gregg Coodley's proposed City of Portland initiative

aimed at providing health insurance to Portland public schoolchildren. The projected 3-4 million dollar costs would cover families unable to qualify for the Oregon Health Plan but not able to afford private insurance. "Enrollment is dropping in the city," Coodley told the meeting, "and insuring these 9000 at-risk kids would help to attract families back into Portland."

Gregg's proposed measure would stipulate that the program be funded with monies out of the City of Portland General Fund surplus, would set the bids for service out to private insurers, and would contain an opt-out clause for any district that found the

initiative's mandates not in their best interest.

Asked about the dynamic of citizens who can afford private insurance taking advantage of the system—one fear that helped snuff out Measure 50—Gregg offered that "the insurance policies in the plan would be catastrophic in nature, with a \$7500 deductible," inferring that nobody who could afford a higher level of coverage would be interested.

"This is about keeping working class families from being wiped out by a health crisis," said Coodley. A motion to support the initiative passed the Hillsdale Neighborhood Association by acclamation.

Hillsdale Plaza still on the drawing board

Next up, association chair Don

Baack addressed Hillsdale issues, the foremost of which was the Plaza North of Rieke. "Based on the results of five planning charettes over the past two years, the community has indicated they want to build a plaza."

Baack proceeded to outline the membership of a small advisory group to guide the city-led effort. The group would include members from the Rieke School community, Hillsdale Business and Professional Association, the Hillsdale Farmers Market, and the Hillsdale Neighborhood Association.

Hillsdale would also like to have a Metro liaison, and a hand in selecting the architect/designer for the project. The city has funds to manage and conduct a planning effort this year.

In other Hillsdale business, in an adjunct to his discussion about the Halo LID and it's implications for Hillsdale, Wes Risher informed the

meeting that the city council had just voted to rescind the controversial Safe Sound and Green streets proposal and put it to the voters in November. Watershed Project head Martin Soloway of Community Partners for Affordable Housing announced he was moving on after 51/2 years to take a job working with the homeless for Central City Concern. In appreciation of his service the association unanimously voted him a "legacy member." "Does that mean I can come back anytime I want?" Martin quipped.

Finally, a riled Arnold Panitch told about how he'd found scores of Army recruiting posters plastered on power poles in his neighborhood. It is illegal to post anything on Portland power poles. "I took every one of them down," said Arnold, clarifying that he has nothing against the Army, but just can't stand the pole pollution.

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