

Sellwood Bridge

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borhood who is not positively impacted by the revenue from that church," she said. Several of those who spoke said that even though Alternative E as presented would have only two traffic lanes, there was the potential that in the future it could be converted to handle more traffic.

Eric Miller of the Sellwood Play Group Association said he was "very concerned about the place where we held summer concerts being impacted. We, the residents of Sellwood, value our community resources." Clearly referring to the condominium owners he said, "I have deep sympathy for those in the community suffering hardships because of this project," and urged "swift action" to get it built.

Most of those who spoke expressed sympathy for the concerns of their opponents. There were some exceptions. John Luddick, who said he was for E, declared the option would have no significant

harm on either the church or park, might even "enhance" the church, and asked, "Which would you prefer?" When the answer was a chorus of "D!", he replied, "Then you're not paying attention."

Conversely, when Chris Eep said, "Don't put the needs of a few above the needs of the many. It's disingenuous of the owners to say they'll be injured by this decision," he was booed.

Nearly all the testimony concerned the impact on the east side of the river. The only person testifying about the west side was David Noble of Riverview Cemetery. He asked the group to "retain access" to the cemetery's property, and said he was glad Alternative C, which would have disrupted it the most, was gone.

Noble gave no overt preference for either option, but expressed concern that the land under Alternative D on the west side is known to be unstable. Of the Task Force he said, "I congratulate you. You work hard, you get no pay, and you get

to lose all your friends."

Following the testimony the Task Force held a form of secret ballot arranged by consultant Elaine Cogan, placing dots to indicate their preferences on boards concealed from the audience. Nearly all voted for Alternative D, and against a "roundabout" arrangement on the east end that might have funneled cars onto neighborhood streets.

The group split almost perfectly in half on whether the bridge should have a third lane. The matter will now go to the Policy Advisory Group, made up of elected or appointed officials from participating jurisdictions and agencies. Task Force members in the past have complained that the PAG has ignored their recommendations.

Clearly aware of this issue, Multnomah County Commission chair Ted Wheeler told the Task Force, "We take seriously what you provide us. We have had problems with communication. I want to give

you an honest heads up about how we'll use your information."

According to Wheeler, "We bring different interests to the table. There may be slightly different lenses. But as we make our decisions, we'll be totally open and honest. We hope you feel satisfied your work was honored, even if we don't agree with you point by point."

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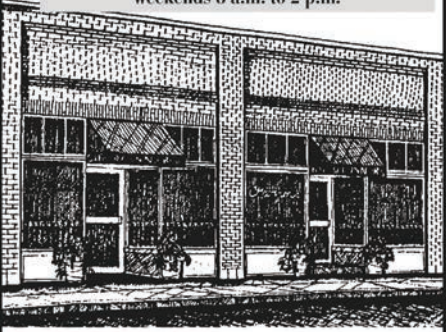
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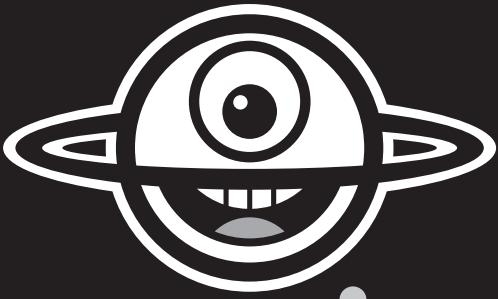
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