

Southwest residents consider future of Barbur Boulevard

BARBUR CONCEPT PLAN

By Lee Perlman
The Southwest Portland Post

Southwest residents would like to see medium – but not high – redevelopment on Southwest Barbur Boulevard.

This was the very shorthand version of feedback that the Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability's Barbur Concept Plan team received at a public workshop last month.

About 60 people attended the session at Cedarwood Montessori School. They came to give input to an examination of how the boulevard should be developed, and what it would take to bring such development about.

As planner Jay Sugnet put it, "What does Barbur want to be when it grows up?" Those who came were given electronic devices and asked to vote on what sort of redevelopment given "focus areas" of Barbur should have.

The choices were the sort of low-rise commercial development that

characterizes much of the street now, "main street" (a few stories of residential above ground floor retail), "mixed use" residential and retail, or "high-rise" residential. Those who participated consistently voted for mixed-use, the second-highest level of intensity.

Consultant John Fregonese said that as Oregon 99W, Barbur is part of "one of the main highways through the state." Locally it could "evolve into a boulevard where the next great thing happens. How should it evolve? Are there places you'd like to see improved or enhanced?"

According to Fregonese, "Barbur was rural until recently, and created at a time when it was assumed everyone would drive. But commercial buildings wear out faster," and create opportunities for redevelopment in a new direction.

In response to an objection from the South Portland Neighborhood Association, the Gibbs Street focus area has been expanded to cover a larger territory; the association had objected that the original boundary contained historic single-family homes

where redevelopment should not be encouraged.

In small-group discussions, those present differed on the suitability of the street for housing. Sam Pearson

of South Burlingame said the street is not suitable for housing "in any way, shape or form."

Don Baack of Hillsdale tended to (Continued on Page 8)

Residents OK but two firefighters injured in Multnomah Village condo fire



Two firefighters sustained burns in a two-alarm blaze at The Village at Multnomah condominium complex located at 7939 SW 40th Ave, May 16. Six condominium units were involved in the fire, which resulted in eight people being displaced including seven adults and one baby. There were no injuries to residents. Damage to the \$2 million building was estimated at \$970,000. Portland Fire Bureau investigators have determined that the cause of the fire was improperly discarded smoking materials. (Post photo by Don Snedecor)

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