Council gives nod to Meier annexation

Sandy's future growth patterns were the topic of debate Monday night when the Sandy City Council approved a request to annex to the city 3.64 acres which Sharon's Food King owner Gale Meier is eyeing for a future store site.

The annexation request will now go before the Portland Metropolitan Area Boundary Commission. If approved there, the proposal will come back to the city for approval and zoning.

Discussion was continued from the May 15 meeting so Councilman Vern Richards could be present. Richards, along with Councilmen Jim Duff, George Burg and Sandy Mayor Melvin Haneberg, voted to recommend approval of the annexation.

Councilmen Warren Decker and Olin Bignal opposed the request, saying they wanted to see available commercial property already in the city limits utilized before annexing additional land for commercial use.

The land in question is located west of Sandy on Highway 26 across from Industrial Way.

"I'm very much in favor of more shopping areas," Decker said. "But there are properties available (inside the city limits). Why do we want to spread out. . .like Gresham, Seattle, Beaverton and Burnside?"

He added that it was the council's duty to see that growth occurs in an orderly fashion.

Councilman Duff noted that even if the annexation eventually occurs, there is no guarantee that the land will be zoned so Meier could build a new store.

Bignall told the council that he believed that it was a city policy that property annexed to the city be brought into the city under the zoning which is nearest the county's zoning of the land. In this case the property is zoned R-20 by the county. The closest city zoning would be R-1, single family residential.

City attorney Jack Hammond said he didn't believe that was an explicit policy, but is what has happened in the past.

Haneberg said the burden of proof would fall upon the developer to show that there was no other property available for the shopping center.

"If, as has been suggested, we do have two areas that would be the size that would accomodate (Meier's store), I think it would be turned down for that reason," the mayor said of an annexation.

There was some question as to what other property might be available for a grocery store complex. Meier told the council that he didn't know what property Decker was talking about.

"If it's property in the city, I know what the prices are," he said. "If it's inside the city, there's no way I can afford it."

Councilman Bruce Cook, who abstained from voting due to a conflict of interest, commented that the city is going to be seeing a doubling of the population in the next few years.

"To make Sandy more than a bedroom community, we need services," he said. "This is a way to provide services."

Meier has said that he needs to expand his present 12,000 square foot store to approximately 40,000 square feet in order to provide services and "capture the escaped" dollar which is lost when persons go out of town to shop.

Meier also said the move is necessary because of the lack of available parking at his present location on Pioneer Boulevard near Heritage Square.

Eager members of the library club bid for soda pop, ice cream and paperbacks with "money" earned from volunteer work. Warm weather inspired inflation.

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Students bid 'funny money'

Inflation stomps bargains

You can hardly call the Sandy Upper School Library a bargain basement.

Take Monday afternoon, for instance, when a can of soda pop went for $105 during the Sandy Mountaineer Audio-Visual Library Club's annual auction.

The money, manufactured for the occasion by librarian Cal Connelly, paid the 37 club members for their volunteer efforts during the year.

"We took in $2886," said Connelly of the funds which were exchanged for the first and last time.

The short-lived currency went to purchase two cases of soda pop, 12 dozen cookies, 2½ gallons of ice cream and 62 popular paperback books.

Any investor would be pleased with that kind of return.

"I think it was a lesson in investment and inflation," said Connelly, who paid students $3 an hour for their work.

The club even established its own bank, offering students who saved a healthy 10 percent compound interest each month.

"If they drew it out of the bank and carried it, they didn't draw interest," Connelly added. "And of course it wasn't negotiable anywhere else."

This year's club included 14 seventh graders and 23 eighth graders. Club members, who filled out applications to become members, were chosen from over 150 applicants.

Members took charge of audio-visual equipment, shelved books, put cards back in the card file and assisted faculty members.

"The kids put in about 1000 hours work in the second semester," Connelly said.

When applications were taken, youngsters were required to have two recommendations from teachers, as well as recommendations from a fellow student and an adult who was not a relative.

"If the application wasn't filled out correctly, they weren't accepted," Connelly said.

Through a book fair, old magazine sale and some other money raising activities, the library club earned enough money to pay for last week's field trip to the Washington Park Zoo, the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry and the Western Forestry Center, complete with ice cream feed afterwards.

Club officers included Gordon Urban, president; Audrey Chapman, vice president and Denise Shokey, secretary-treasurer. Denise, Audrey and Suzanne Jones served on the banking and auditing committee.

The auction, which Connelly organized with the help of assistant librarian Judy Burger and Denise's mother, Betty Shokey, was the club's year-end bash.

Students sometimes learned the hard way that savings could be quickly depleted.

As one youngster told Connelly:

"I spent $180 on pop, ice cream, cake and cookies. When you finally got to selling the books I wanted, I was broke."

"Have you ever heard the saying that a fool and his money are soon parted?" asked Connelly.

"Yes," came the reply. "But I never knew what it meant before now."

SANDY UPPER GRADE LIBRARIAN Cal Connelly drove some hard bargains and sold a paperback copy of "Star Wars" for $65.

Picker shortage 'acute'

The shortage of laborers to work in area berry fields is growing acute but the Labor Department may act soon to alleviate part of the problem.

According to a statement released Tuesday, Labor Secretary Ray Marshall is reconsidering an earlier decision disallowing 10- and 11-year-olds from working in the fields because of the danger of pesticide poisoning.

Marshall had ruled two weeks ago that the dangers involved could be enough to not allow the youngsters in the fields. However, Oregon Agriculture Director Leonard Kunzman informed Marshall that no health problems had occured in the past.

Locally, only a small number of pickers have registered with the Gresham Employment Division to meet the demand of five farms which require 120 harvestors.

Because of the shortage, pickers are reported to be receiving 6 to 7 cents a pound for their work compared to five cents at the start of the berry season last year.

Farmers report the crisis will worsen next month when the harvest season gets into full swing.

For the present, the dry, warm air that has dominated weather conditions for the past week will probably accelerate agriculture activity, according to the State Employment's Division's Farm Labor Information officer.

The entire Oregon Congressional delegation has sent letters urging the ban on 10- and 11-year-olds to be repealed.

Also blasting Marshall in a letter was Waldron Johnson, president of the Oregon Farm Bureau.

Johnson said the entire strawberry crop of 35 million tons is threatened by the lack of willing pickers caused by the secretary's action. He also said youngsters would lose valuable work experience and the opportunity to earn spending money.

Johnson said he was upset because the farmers were not notified of the denial two weeks ago but instead had to rely on the media.

Johnson also charged that Marshall has denied farmers time to research and write up the data requested on the effects of the pesticides. He explained that Marshall released his decision the same day the data was to have been mailed.

Loren Kramer, executive assistant to Gov. Bob Straub, is also pursuing a blanket exemption for Oregon.

Kramer said the labor department's decision did not include a request from the governor for a blanket waiver for the state.

Kramer said he expects word from Washington, D.C., on the request within the next few days.

MHCC seeks mediator

A state mediator has been requested because of an impasse in contract negotiations with faculty representatives at Mt. Hood Community College, President Steve Nicholson said Tuesday.

Negotiators for the administration and the faculty have been bargaining since October on terms of a new pact.

The College has asked the Conciliation Services Division of the State Employment Relations Board for a mediator, Nicholson said.

"I understand this process takes about two weeks before the mediation begins, then allows about two weeks for the mediation period," the MHCC president said. "So, we anticipate that mediation sessions would be some time in the latter part of June — after the 15th or so."

He said there was "a sizeable gap on a number of issues. We're substantially apart on the salary issue," he said. "I think we're substantially apart on faculty evaluation procedures, and I also think we're substantially apart on the work load agreement."

He said the rejection was by "a very strong vote. Their counter offer involved substantial increase in the fringe benefit area and substantial extensions on the basic schedule which would be very costly."

The contract for the 1977-78 school year, based on a 180-day work schedule, calls for a salary of $10,423 for faculty members with no experience. The maximum, for personnel having master's degrees and 13 years of experience, is $20,609.

The college's salary schedule provides for an annual increase of 4.6 percent. "The board has offered that 4.6 percent plus an additional 6.1 percent as a salary increase of 10.7," Nicholson said. "This was rejected by the faculty."

Dr. Mike Finnigan, a business law instructor who is president of the college's faculty association, disagreed with Nicholson's statement that the wage issue was a major obstacle in the negotiations.

"In fact, we were a little surprised by the size of the increase they offered," said Finnigan, who served as assistant to the president at Mt. Hood for 9½ years before moving into full-time teaching.

He said the faculty negotiators answered the offer of a 10.7 percent salary increase with a proposal for a three-year contract. The college board wants a four-year pact.

He said the faculty indicated it would be willing to accept less than 10.7 percent in order to get more fringe benefits.

MHCC lags well behind in fringe benefits compared with other Oregon community colleges, he said.

In other words, the overall dollar amount involved would be little different under the faculty proposal because the money simply would be redistributed, he explained.

He said the issue of faculty evaluation procedures does not apply anymore. "We came in with extensive pages on that," he said, "but before we even went to impasse, we completely withdrew 'em from the table.

What this boils down to, he said, is that department heads who have expertise in their respective fields want a larger role in this process.

"We don't look at them as an issue."

He agreed that the work load of faculty members remains a big issue in the talks.

He also said another issue is what is called college governance, which amounts to determining what role that faculty members should have in "selecting, controlling and operating the curriculum of the college to meet the standards that society demands."

The appointment of a state mediator is the second step in a three-part legal process governing contract negotiations. The mediator will advise each side privately in attempting to help solve the dispute. If the parties remain at an impasse, a factfinder would be requested.

The administration and faculty bargainers were at an impasse two years ago when the existing contract was negotiated.

The college board would like to replace the current two-year contract with a four-year pact, Nicholson said. Under that plan, the economic package would be reopened after two years.

The faculty is seeking a three-year contract, Nicholson said.

School sites approved

Sandy Elementary School District last week was given the green light for conditional use permits to construct a new school in the Kelso area and add to the Firwood School building.

Construction for the two projects is expected to start sometime this summer, said District Superintendent Clark Lund. Bids for the Firwood project will open June 28, with groundbreaking anticipated at the first of July.

Lund said bids for the Kelso school will open in late August with construction to begin Sept. 1. The Kelso school is slated to open for classes in the fall of 1979.

The Kelso school will consist of a two-story building of approximately 60,000 square feet and 75 off-street parking spaces. It will be located on the north side of Southeast Kelso Road, approximately 300 feet east of its intersection with Southeast Orient Drive. The Boring Action Neighborhood Group had voiced some objections to the proposal.

Lund said the school site passes soil tests and conditions were deemed "excellent" for disposal of solid wastes.

Inside The Post

Warren Olney says goodbye to Timberline. Page one, section two.

'Elvis' keeps them swooning at T.J.'s Lounge. Page 11, section one.

Citizen involvement program surveyed. See page nine. section one.