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City, businessmen work to weather economy

by DAN DILLON

The Sandy business community is concerned about the economy and looking for ways to weather the downswing. Monday evening some 30 business

leaders attended the Sandy City Council meeting to demonstrate their willingness to work with the city in any capacity to improve economic conditions locally.

Insurance broker Bruce Cook pointed to an increase in highway

traffic without a corresponding increase in business.

According to the state Highway Division, Cook said, traffic on the west end of town increased from 11,600 vehicles per day in 1975 to 14,200 in 1980; at the east end, the rise

was from 8,200 to 10,600.

"While the numbers are growing, the number of people who've stopped hasn't kept pace," he said, resulting in "a lot of concern."

Despite the potentially grim situation, Cook said, "I think we're op-

timistic."

Ironically, Monday's agenda contained three issues that could help local businesses: economic development, a review of the sign ordinance and a request by a local businessman for an auxiliary sign.

Bill Granstrom, owner of Sandy Arco, asked the council for permission to use an A-board sign to advertise gas prices.

Such signs are not allowed under local sign ordinances.

He said he put up a sign earlier to advertise prices competitive with Gresham service stations but was asked to remove it by city officials.

"I can't compete without the gallons," he said.

Despite fears that it would "snowball" throughout the community, become an eyesore and be difficult to enforce, the council agreed to give local service station owners 30-day permits, if they submit a written application to City Manager Roger Jordan. The city will do so only until an ordinance can be prepared outlining its position.

"We may have to do some flexing to help some of these businesses," Councilman Deane Wesselink pointed out.

A biennial review of the sign ordinance may help the city be more flexible.

A committee, composed equally of business people and non-business people, will be appointed at the April 5 council meeting to take a look at Sandy's sign code. It will make recommendations to the city council concerning any amendments which may seem necessary.

Jordan outlined steps the city will take now that the Economic Development Commission report is complete in order that it doesn't become a static document:

- The city should commit itself to an active role in promoting economic development with staff support and a new executive committee appointed by the city council.

- The City Council should continue to authorize local participation in the Small Cities Industrial Attraction Program and use that effort to market the community, while leaving the marketing of individual properties to the private sector.

- The City Council should continue its commitment to expanding the sewage treatment plant and building a new water reservoir.

- The City Council should also develop a public facilities master plan for areas zoned industrial and future industrial, including a plan showing methods of providing sewer, water and streets in the areas.



Alisha Watts, a Cottrell School fourth grader, experiments with a talking computer at the countywide TAG Fair sponsored by Clackamas ESD recently at Clackamas Community College.

Photo by Russ Nelson

Gifted students share ideas at fair

by DAN DILLON

Educators are constantly looking for ways to maintain students' enthusiasm in their day-to-day classroom activities.

When the range of aptitudes and interests vary along a wide spectrum, however, the teachers' job becomes that much more difficult.

A program operating throughout the county, however, works to help teachers keep one group of students, who might otherwise lose interest in education, curious about new pursuits.

According to a Clackamas County Education Service District spokesman, these students might otherwise be the most likely candidates to drop out of school.

They are students whose IQs are above average.

"Bright kids get bored and drop out of school," said Russ Nelson. "The average IQ of school dropouts is above those in school."

Yet, thanks to a countywide festival, bright students get a chance to get together and share ideas with their peers that they might not otherwise get to share.

The Clackamas ESD sponsored the second annual countywide Talented and Gifted Fair recently at Clackamas Community College in Oregon City.

Some 400 students from 13 of the county's 28 school districts participated, according to Marilyn Hess, TAG coordinator for the ESD whose position is sponsored by the Northwest Area Foundation.

The non-competitive fair allows bright students to be involved in a consortium of ideas that they might not normally be exposed to in the classroom.

Last year the fair tended to emphasize science projects, Nelson said. This year, however, the range of projects was limited only by the students' imaginations.

The TAG students emphasized communications, art, poetry and literature, theater and mime, Nelson said.

Students also focused on "real social issues," such as energy alternatives. A couple students build solar panels that actually worked.

And the students are young—all elementary and junior high students.

"The students came up with an idea, then researched it," Hess said. "Then they came up with a project." The fair was a sharing of projects.

Some students, however, came just to observe.

Welches School is just getting started with its enrichment program, yet the teacher "brought all her kids down from the mountain to attend the fair to see what is in store for them," Hess said.

What is in store is a chance for an exchange among young persons and a chance to maintain an interest in pursuing new ideas.

Action Center, city gain Block Grant funds

by DAN DILLON

Only the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners stands between two Community Development Block Grants for Sandy that would improve streets in the north-central area and enable the Sandy Community Action Center to purchase its own home.

Approval by the commissioners is considered a formality after the projects were OK'd by the Policy Advisory Board and the Citizens Advisory Board, according to City Manager Roger Jordan.

Under the plan, the non-profit Community Action Center will receive \$132,000, probably later this summer, to be matched by its own \$30,000 for purchase of a permanent home.

Chairman Pete Sulzbach said the center currently pays rent, lights, heat and telephone bills through an agreement with Clackamas County Action Agency.

"If we can beat rent," he said, "we figure we can still keep operating even if federal funds are cut off to the county."

Sulzbach said the center's matching funds came from a bequest for the purpose of buying a facility.

He said the aim is purchase of the Sandy Post Office when a new postal facility is built. Nothing is final on

that, however.

The center has been at its present location for five years, Sulzbach said. Prior to that it was located in the building that currently houses Decker & Scales and Sandy Travel.

The city will receive \$35,000 in 1984, to be matched by its own \$11,600 for improvements to Pleasant Street, Beers Avenue and Scales Avenue.

Total improvements are not finalized, Jordan said, but he anticipates storm drainage and some street improvements will be accomplished.

He plans to involve residents of the area in the decision-making process.

Fall fatal to Sandy River fisherman

A 55-year-old Fairview man died Tuesday night from injuries sustained earlier in the day when he slipped and fell 40 feet onto rocks while fishing in the Sandy River about one-quarter mile below Marmot Dam.

Jack L. Moore died about 5:15 p.m. at Portland Adventist Medical Center.

According to Scott Roskelley, a hospital spokesman, Moore was admitted to the facility at 2:15 p.m. with multiple fractures and facial lacerations after he was airlifted from a small island in the river by a 304th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron helicopter.

Moore reportedly slipped from a riverbank, landed on some rocks and fell face down in the river. He was pulled from the icy river and onto an island downstream near Marmot Dam by Tom Oldenburg, 26, of Sandy.

Clackamas County sheriff's deputies credit Oldenburg's action for prolonging fellow fisherman Moore's life an additional few hours.

He was placed on a litter and hoisted approximately 150 feet into the helicopter, according to Roskelley, and flown to the hospital.

Mt. Hood CPO blasts updated area plan proposal

by MICHAEL P. JONES
Post Correspondent

The Mt. Hood Corridor Citizen Planning Organization no sooner received official recognition from the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners than it locked horns with the commission.

The CPO has requested the commissioners return to a more citizen-oriented review process for the area's plan.

According to Chairman John McMahan, the CPO's executive board has unanimously agreed that proposed changes in the Mt. Hood

Community Plan and its zoning and development ordinances are unacceptable.

In addition, McMahan said the board is "especially troubled" by the lack of public notification concerning the proposed changes. He said the proposed 17-member board feels the problem has led to a void in the planning process and could pose major problems for the mountain and its citizens.

"Without adequate time to review the proposals and worse, the lack of available materials or data, how can we be expected to make a rational

proper decision," McMahan asked.

In a letter, he wrote that the CPO's executive board "unanimously voted to reject the process, the proposed timelines for input, testimony, and review, and to officially notify (the commissioners) of our displeasure and cause for concern over the lack of adequate public input on the draft under consideration."

McMahan said the original Mt. Hood Community Plan, adopted in 1976, represented extensive citizen participation in the planning process from start to finish.

"The current draft of the proposed

revisions by the Clackamas County planning staff unilaterally generated strikes at the heart of this concept and, on that basis alone would be unacceptable to the community we represent," McMahan said.

He said the board's stand against the changes and the process represents its concern for representing the area.

"Not one single representative wanted to take any action that might not totally represent the people they were elected to serve," he said.

The board accused planning staff of going beyond a review of wetlands

which the Land Conservation and Development Commission had asked for.

For example, McMahan said, significant amounts of private land have been redesignated as timberland and the permitted density of development has been substantially reduced as a result.

Board member Marilyn Leslie cited an example of one parcel where the density was reduced from one unit per five acres to one unit per 40 acres.

In addition, she said, there is a sewer clause which would not permit any private septic system for new construction in the designated urban areas such as Wemme, Welches, Zigzag and Rhododendron.

Instead, owners and developers will be required to hook up to the new Hoodland Sewer District.

McMahan said CPO members and other citizens of the area will be at tonight's scheduled plan review meeting in full force to make the county planning representatives aware that their proposals and notification tactics are not acceptable.

In a letter delivered to the commissioners prior to tonight's meeting, the CPO requested the county return to the original process of involving all citizens in the development of the area's plan.

The CPO has offered to meet with the county to develop a new review process which would allow new proposals to be submitted for review.

(See related story on page 1, section II.)

Boundary Commission OK's water plan

by MICHAEL P. JONES
Post Correspondent

The Portland Metropolitan Boundary Commission last Thursday unanimously approved the Alder Creek Water Users Association plan to form five separate water districts.

The approval summed up months of work and dedication by the customers of the problem-riddled company, said Chairperson Jock Stewart.

For the first time since the early 1970s, the five water companies that made up the Alder Creek Water Company are legally independent, he said.

Unlike in the past, Stewart said, each district will be administered

and maintained by the service users within each geographic area and each will concentrate efforts to provide adequate and safe drinking water.

He complained that in the past not all the systems had problems with quantity and quality of water.

Stewart said that because all five systems were owned by Gerald "Red" Bennett, who was battling the Oregon Health Division, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Federal District Court on allegations of contamination, the systems "became targets for condemnation proceedings."

At last Thursday evening's meeting Commission Member Eric Jorgensen applauded the organiza-

tion and unity of the citizens' group. In a report to the Commission, Gerald C. Schmidt, of Oregon Water Consultants, wrote that based on his experience in working with smaller water systems there were two main problems common to all systems, private and public:

A former state Health Division employee, Schmidt said that most water systems are privately organized, administered and maintained, which neither requires nor encourages participation from people being served.

"The small water systems historically have had little planning and no aid in understanding good waterworks practices," Schmidt said. "If those systems do need im-

provements, it is no easy task to convince the users."

Schmidt said that by allowing the customers a role in the system's operation, and by giving them an opportunity to determine their future direction, participation will not be a problem.

Stewart agreed and said the customers' recent role in the hearings process illustrates that. Schmidt admitted that most small companies usually have difficulties financing necessary capital improvements for financing water system improvements.

"A special service district allows the people to bond, make special assessments or to finance water system improvements," he said.

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