

The Sandy Post

Editorial & Opinion

Scott Newton, editor
Karinda Hedlund, advertising representative

Council wise to accept comment

The Sandy City Council showed the right spirit in accepting additional comment on a new ordinance that would amend the city code to permit light industry downtown.

The councilors' willingness to let the public speak once again shows more interest in giving constituents one last say than in hurrying a decision that could reshape the city for some time to come.

The council demonstrated its flexibility too in bending the rules governing its meetings to let a concerned citizen speak out of turn on the agenda, and weeks after the formal public hearing.

Dale Nicholls was the citizen who asked if he could voice his opposition to the ordinance, despite being out of order. Neither Nicholls nor anyone else came forward during the meeting's public comment period.

Nicholls then had the gumption — admirable perhaps, risky perhaps — to lecture the council on giving more thought to implications of the broadened zoning.

The council gave full attention to Nicholls arguments and criticism before agreeing after some debate to hear even more from him and others this Monday night. Anyone submitting letters by Aug. 11 can speak at the next meeting.

Despite a response of five letters, few can argue once the council makes a decision that it discouraged public debate.

The council acted prudently, though, in deciding against reopening the public hearing that could well drag out the process, possibly with the same result. That also might be unfair to those citizens attending the first hearing who might be unable to come to another.

Still, councilors Dick Harrison and Mort Spence deserve individual praise for convincing their less-eager colleagues to accept more public comment.

One letter — from the city's Planning Commission — to the council opposing warehouse and storage facilities as conditional uses merits special consideration and a corresponding vote to alter the proposed ordinance.

The commission is wise to recognize those facilities as incompatible downtown uses that would hire few people. They too easily conjure images of look-alike sanitized structures, chainlink fences and traffic all hours of the day.

It makes more sense to combine storage with the light industry permitted by the proposed ordinance.

Light industry that operates cleanly and quietly, and research and development facilities, promise to bring the jobs and paychecks that could revive Sandy's increasingly vacant downtown.

With a built-in stop gap requiring these new uses to be approved by the commission and the council, Sandy smartly is avoiding uncontrolled development.

The council should move ahead now with the new ordinance, minus the provision for separate storage, so Sandy can get on with its progress.



But boxes always handy

A collector of cardboard confesses

Some people collect antique banks or Victorian hair receivers or cats. I collect boxes — empty boxes.

I have had a lifelong insecurity about cardboard containers. I live with the constant dread that someday something will come along that I don't have a box for.

I covet boxes. I hoard boxes. I boast about boxes.

"That's a nice size," I'm apt to say at my birthday party, setting aside the gift and lunging for the box it came in. Should I ever want to send four egg coddlers to Aunt Maude in Scappoose, it will be just the thing.

"Hmmm," I will say, eyeing a particularly sturdy box that once housed a size 12 pair of Nikes. "That box is good enough to make it to Anchorage and back."

That is no idle threat.

It works this way. I ship Christmas gifts to my family to Alaska in the ultimate box — the one I hunt for all



Sharon Nesbit

year. It must be big. Its precise dimensions are predicated on the size of the biggest package that goes inside. (I try to buy rectangular gifts; square boxes are almost impossible to come by.) But not too big. Nobody wants to ship empty space to Alaska.

About mid-December, I send this box north. My sister-in-law then empties it, reloads it with gifts to us and ships it back. A good box is that hard to find. Should my box fail for some reason, or should the post office beat it up more than usual, my sister-in-law gets miffed and my present suffers accordingly.

"I would have bought you a nicer gift," she says, "but I had to spend all my time looking for a box." I know how she feels. One Christmas I sat in the local general store unloading 72 dozen candy canes to get the box they came in.

Over the years, you tend to get attached to certain boxes. In my box cupboard (the biggest and best cupboard in the house) is a box that a set of dishes came in 10 years ago. The dishes are all broken now. The store they came from is extinct. But I've still got the box. It may come in handy some day.

I have a box I can ship skis in, if I ever get a pair. I have clever, little compartmentalized boxes suitable for jams and jellies.

I have floral boxes. And plaid boxes and polka dot boxes. I have plain brown wrapper boxes. Boxes full of little foam chips, boxes full of cellophane packing stuff, boxes full of tissue paper and boxes full of boxes.

"What is this?" Hubby thundered one day when he stumbled on my treasure trove. "This whole cupboard full of boxes — it's a waste of space, a fire hazard."

I'd get rid of them but I don't have a box big enough to throw them out.

Sharon Nesbit wrote this column in 1982. It became a favorite of box collectors everywhere, all of whom have come out of the closet with their habit. Nesbit, however, is still boxed in by her collection.

Guest opinion

Forestry bill brings major changes

By Gov. Neil Goldschmidt

One of the most important forestry bills of the past two decades became law on July 22, when I signed House Bill 3396.

This bill produces some of the most sweeping changes in the regulation of private forest land in Oregon since the Oregon Forest Practices Act was passed in 1971.

House Bill 3396 clears up a long-standing issue between the Forest Practices Act and Oregon's land use law; charges the Oregon Board of Forestry with significant new responsibilities to protect specific resources on forest land, including threatened and endangered fish and wildlife species, sensitive bird roosting and nesting sites, significant biological sites, and significant wetlands; and changes the composition of the Board of Forestry.

This legislation is the final product of hours of behind-the-scenes negotiations among the forestry industry, environmental organizations and government, in an effort to resolve a number of major concerns of the various parties.

At the invitation of my office, representatives of the Oregon Forest Industries Council, the Association of Oregon Counties, a consortium of environmental organizations led by 1000 Friends of Oregon, the State Forester and the director of the Department of Land Conservation

their lands for commercial timber production, knowing clearly the regulatory authority that the state of Oregon and its citizens have identified as important to the protection of all forest resources.

The environmental organizations

'I know that future generations will look back to this bill as a significant step forward in protecting all resources while allowing our state's major industry to effectively produce forest goods and services.'

and Development, worked long and hard hours to develop this bill.

Under the leadership of Senate President John Kitzhaber and Speaker of the House Vera Katz, the bill moved quickly through committees and onto the floor of both houses, where it passed with only a few minor changes.

The result was a bill that allows private forest landowners to manage

are confident that these resources will be protected and that they will have a specific route of appeal under certain conditions to ensure that the resources will be preserved for future generations.

Finally, the Board of Forestry that has served Oregon well for the past 75 years, will now have seven members, replacing the current

12-member board, with no more than three members having ties to industry. The new board will take office on Jan. 1, 1988, and I expect it to be a strong voice for the public interest in this vital resource.

To me, there are two major "victories" for Oregonians. First, I know that future generations will look back to this bill as a significant step forward in protecting all resources while allowing our state's major industry to effectively produce forest goods and services. Secondly, and just as important, is the example of conflict resolution set by the 25 individuals who participated in the long hours of negotiation in drafting the final bill. Perhaps this method will help pave the way for resolving other long-standing conflicts, rather than through time-consuming and costly legal battles and struggles carried on through the news media.

Oregonians can manage their forests for commercial production and protect our waters, fish, wildlife and other resources. House Bill 3396 marks a major contribution to that effort.

by Adam Kraft

Bobcats



Letters to the editor

Zoning proposal raises questions

I have sent this letter to the city and I wish to respond to the C-1 Zoning Ordinance Amendment.

I have mixed feelings. No one knows better than I the need to fill vacant buildings in the city's core area. An increase in jobs for the people in the community is also important. But would their dollars be spent in Sandy?

As a concerned citizen and property owner I would like to offer the following questions for your consideration:

- Will conditional use amendments become common practice every time a new problem arises or a business needs to be legitimized?

- Will insurance rates increase while property values decrease for the current property owners in the core area?

- Can the streets tolerate the increased use by heavy trucks?

- Will parking be sufficient for all employees and retail customers?

I would like to propose a clause in the amendment that would prohibit new buildings to house manufacturing or industry from being constructed in the core area. The change is to help fill vacancies — not create more.

One final thought. Can the Chamber of Commerce and city do anything to help promote the current retailers' business in this area?

Thank you for taking the time to hear my concerns.

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Sandy

The Sandy Post

(USPS 481-180)

MEMBER Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association, National Newspaper Association and U.S. Suburban Press. Published weekly Thursdays by the Outlook Publishing Co. Box 88, Sandy, Oregon 97055. Second class postage paid at Sandy, Oregon.

668-5548

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