

TURMOIL ON INDUSTRIAL LANDS PANEL?

The city of Eugene's industrial lands planning and the Envision Eugene process took a hit this week from Kevin Matthews of Friends of Eugene. Matthews said FoE is "very concerned about the breakdown of transparent, frankly collaborative or consensus process in Envision Eugene industrial lands planning."

In an email to city planners and Planning Commission members July 25, Matthews went on to say, "Our fundamental concern, beyond process, is that, by failing to conduct accurate fact-based industrial lands planning, the city of Eugene may put itself on a course to miss the real economic development needs and aspirations of our community — while damaging significant resources pointlessly, along the way."

Matthews said a committee report that was "short, marred by error, non-consensus, and filed unilaterally by one co-chair — is

still apparently being carried forward by city staff as legitimate collaborative work output from the committee" on industrial lands.

Pat Johnston is co-chair of the committee along with Rusty Rexius and said that, "It is accurate that the Envision Eugene Industrial Lands committee did not reach consensus. ... It was our understanding that the city of Eugene intended to pull the committee back together and bring in a consensus facilitator to help the committee meet resolution."

Matthews said FoE is concerned that city staff is going ahead with implementing an expansion of the urban growth boundary for northwest Eugene industrial lands "even though they have not yet even completed the current industrial lands inventory, and have not addressed either the failed technical process or the failed community process regarding actual industrial lands need."

City planners did not respond to a request for comment by press time. — *Ted Taylor*

RIVERBEND SLOUCHES

Italy has its Leaning Tower of Pisa. Does Oregon now have its Leaning Tower of RiverBend? *EW* has heard reports that the massive 386-bed medical center built in 2008 on sandstone next to the McKenzie River is settling, despite the hospital's six-foot thick reinforced concrete foundation slab. One source told *EW* that a gurney with a patient on it slowly rolled by itself through



For Harver Star! She will be dearly remembered as a longtime friend of the Arts, Eugene and its inhabitants, four-legged and otherwise...

a doorway and bumped against a hallway wall.

Uneven floors on some medical units have been confirmed but are not a serious concern, according to PeaceHealth spokesman Jim Godbold. Minor cracks in concrete walls have also been observed, but Godbold said the foundation is fine. "The building is doing some natural and expected settling, and there is some deflection, or bending, between columns in some areas," he said. "As a result, there are spots where the floor is not level. This is being addressed with floor filler on a case-by-case basis."

When asked about standing water in the physicians' parking garage, Godbold says there is no groundwater infiltration through the foundation, but during heavy rainfalls,

"water runs down the entrance ramps past the drains and pools on the concrete floor."

Philip Farrington, PeaceHealth's regional director of land use planning and development, did not return a phone call by press time, and Godbold did not respond to a question about the cost of needed repairs. Nor could the runaway gurney story be confirmed.

Engineers for RiverBend were KPFF, with offices in Eugene, Portland and Seattle involved in the design and construction. One KPFF engineer, reached by phone, said it would be a violation of his professional ethics to speculate about any potential problems with the structure. "All I've heard is that the building is rock solid," he said.

— *Ted Taylor*

SPORTS

Slaughter Squeaks By

In the rankings, it doesn't get any closer. Emerald City Roller Girls travel team, the Skatesaphrenics, are ranked twelfth in the West. Slaughter County's (Kitsap County, Wash.) Saints of Slaughter are thirteenth. It's only fitting that the bout between these two July 16 at the Lane Events Center featured seven lead changes before reaching a final 135-132 Slaughter County victory.

Six of those lead changes occurred in the first half as Emerald City tested out a variety of skaters in the scoring while trying to contain 2010 Northwest MVP On 'Da Sligh. The highlight of the first half was when Slaughter's tiny Asonya Face, unable to get around Emerald City's Rex Havoc, decided to go through her legs. Emerald City went to the locker room with at halftime with a 75-71 lead.

Slaughter County took the lead early in the second half and held it. Going into the final minute up by 16, Slaughter's scorer landed in the penalty box giving Emerald City's high scorer Surly Q the opportunity to win the game, but she was only able to pick up 13 points before time expired.

Each team picked an MVP on the opposing team. Emerald City scorer Katarina Van Rotten and Slaughter County's 18-year-old phenom Much Mayhem earned MVP honors.

The bout was preceded by a half-hour exhibition between the B-teams from Emerald City and Lava City (Bend). Emerald City's B-Ward won 93-34.

Emerald City's next bout is Aug. 27 in Olympia, Wash., against the women's national champion roller derby team, the Oly Rollers. — *James Warmels*



JEFF BORELO



TRASK BEDORTH

Women Wanted for Rugby

The women of the Eugene Reign, our local rugby team, are looking for some tough, tenacious chicks to round out this year's squad. "Recruitment is the most important thing for us right now," says team captain Brittany Stepnioski.

Rugby teams field 15 players, and Stepnioski says the Reign almost has a full squad but they need to round out the team with enough players for substitutions.

"What's great about rugby is anybody can play it, from itty bitty girls to big girls," Stepnioski explains. "We can teach anyone how to play, and we can work on getting in shape."

She says that rugby isn't nearly as dangerous or difficult to learn as most folks think. In fact, she adds, anyone who joins the team is guaranteed to play this season. "After your first game you get some understanding," Stepnioski says. "The best way to learn is to play."

Last season the Reign made the playoffs, but were defeated by Olympia's Budd Bay Bandits, a team that ended up competing in nationals. On tap this year are three home games and a pair of away games, including a trip to Boise, Idaho.

It only costs about \$100 to join, she adds, which includes the cost of referees, field use, union dues and a player certification. Stepnioski says rookies this year will get a \$10 discount. Also, she added, there is the further incentive of free beer after each match (the team is sponsored by Ninkasi).

Practices start Aug. 8 and will be held at 5:30 pm every Monday and Wednesday at Skinner's Butte near the playground. For more information about Eugene Women's Rugby, call 525-0157, email eugenewomensrugby@gmail or visit www.eugenewomensrugby.com; or go to <http://wklyws/13d> to see *EW*'s March 17 cover story on the Reign. — *Rick Levin*