



The Union Ave. median strip is one of the concerns the UVW Project will deal with. Photo by Richard J. Brown

Revitalized UVW Project

by Leon Harris

Northeast Portland received a much needed shot in the arm recently as a group of local area businessmen met to revitalize the Union-Vancouver-Williams Avenue Project which has been lying dormant for over one year. The project (UVW) is a main street approach, assisted in part by the Oregon Downtown Development Association (ODDA) and would enhance businesses along the three corridors through an action-oriented plan.

UVW, although first launched almost two years ago, was forced into inactivity due to a series of miscalculations which necessitated a restructuring of the board of directors and a re-evaluation of priorities.

The current board (reduced to 9 from 27), while recognizing that Northeast Portland is confronted with many social and economic problems, has decided to focus its attention on those that are business-related due to lack of resources. While this is contrary to recommendations presented by a resource team of outside consultants, the decision was a wise one, as the newly created board is comprised mostly of businessmen with a history of proven success in the area.

Undertaking the recommendations of the team of consultants was too cumbersome, the board felt, as the report cited prostitution, drugs, crime, and poverty as issues which should be addressed by the UVW project. But, in singling out economic development as its only priority for the present, the board has aligned itself with community thinking and rightfully so.

Future meetings are planned to develop a comprehensive blue-print for action.

Board members include: Bernie Foster, Nathan Redditt, Horace Johnson, Howard Glazer, Rev. Watley, Charles Bedford, Paul Knauls, V.F. Booker and Kevin Brown.

Con't from Page 1

City Charged With Not Following Guidelines in Regards to Federal Funds

hasn't had time, but will make a response in the near future. He said he can't understand why Hall is saying that SCA wasn't involved in the process. "The Beech Street proposal was approved by the old board. Just last week, the new board voted 8-0 in support of the plan. He is incorrect when he states that the SCA didn't have any input into the process. I don't understand why he is complaining."

Hunter was asked about allegations that federal dollars will be used on the project. That portion of the project receiving federal funds requires competitive bidding, but will not be competitively bid. He replied, "Federal funds were used only to purchase the five lots. No contractors have been given the job of building the houses. Once HAP comes up with its provision specifics for the houses, the job will be put out for public bidding sometime in April. Any contractor that's met our requirements and can do the job at the lowest price will get the contract." Hunter said HAP must borrow money to pay for the construction of the units.

The Observer also spoke with two city representatives who are familiar with the Beech Street Project regarding Hall's and Hansen's allegations. They spoke on condition of anonymity. "Their (Hall's and Hansen's) comments that SCA wasn't included in the process in regards to the Beech Street Project are untrue. The SCA board voted 5-4 in favor of the proposal." Both officials, one no longer in city government, accused Hall and Hansen of "sour grapes" and stated, "Hall and Hansen wouldn't be satisfied unless the plan implemented for the project is theirs."

Told of the comments, Hall responded by saying that "Although the SCA board voted 5-4 to accept the Beech Street proposal, he has recommended that the new board reconsider the plan. Hansen also alleged that city officials aren't using federal Block Grants properly. "Federal Block Grant funds are targeted for depressed neighborhoods. These neighborhoods are used by the city to pull millions of federal dollars into Portland. The money usually doesn't get into those neighborhoods; it is siphoned off. The Portland Development Commission is the biggest offender of this practice," Hansen said.

He said this year the Portland Development Commission will receive 12 million dollars. "They always walk out with most of the money. Last year they received eight million dollars. What disturbs me the most is that the area with the greatest needs does not get the money." Hansen is critical of the manner used to dispense community development funds. "When they must comply with regulations of citizens' participation, they must form a planning body within those neighborhoods made up of citizens. What they do is this: They put eight agencies on the community board, each of which now receives funds for their own programs. Each agency then must fight for the small amount of funds that the city gives all six neighborhoods. The city only allows the citizens six votes, while Ron Herndon, co-chair of the Black United Front, and his associates get eight votes. They, the city, stack the deck. This is improper."

Hansen said in S.E. Portland things are done differently. "Although S.E. neighborhoods are not as bad as N.E. neighborhoods, they receive equal amount of H.C.D. money. But they are a little smarter than most of us in Northeast, because they said the six neighborhoods each have one vote and the eight agencies reduced theirs to three. This way the agencies who wanted the money cannot out-vote the citizens. They made all the businesses and commercial agencies group together, social and educational agencies combined, and the churches, with each having one vote."

Black History Program

On Sunday, February 22, 1987, there will be a Black history program entitled "A Return to Our Spiritual Roots" at 5:00 p.m. at Berean Baptist Church, 4822 N. Vancouver, Portland, Oregon.

Pastor Nathan Barnett will be the special guest speaker. Spirituals, special music selections, and dramatic readings will be featured. Refreshments will be served after the program.

For more information, contact Anita Noble, 284-0547.

Winter Mini-Term to Start

Classes will begin throughout the month of February for Mt. Hood Community College's winter mini-term, offering a wide selection of concentrated courses for those whose daily schedules don't fit with a regular academic term.

More than 60 courses make up the mini-term. Start dates range from Feb. 9 to the second week in March, depending on the course length and subject matter.

Business, computers, basic skills and AutoCAD training are among the subjects offered. Also included are a wide variety of community education classes and small business seminars.

Schedules listing the mini-courses are available in the MHCC admissions office. Telephone registration is available for part-time students. For registration or more information on mini-term courses call 667-7392.

Spencer Invisions NW Boxing Tournament

by Jerry Garner

Thad Spencer, former number one heavyweight contender of the world, has visions of hosting a Northwest boxing tournament. "Presently, I am negotiating with the Millers Brewing Company to become sponsor of the tournament. The tournament will be called "Thad Spencer Promotions Presents Millers Boxing Tournament", Spencer said.

He said if the deal with Millers continues to go smoothly, he plans to promote his first three fights beginning April 17th in Pasco, WA, at the Red Lion Inn. "Then, there will be a championship tournament afterwards. The Millers champions will compete against the Strohs champs for the Westcoast Championship."

The Strohs Boxing Tournament is promoted by Dr. Jerry Buss, owner of the L.A. Lakers basketball team and the Fabulous Forum.

Spencer said he has been working on the tournament, trying to find a beer sponsor since 1983. Just recently, Spencer was granted a matchmaker's license by the Portland Boxing Commission after having applied three times over the past several years.

"When I returned from Bakersfield and applied for my license, the Boxing Commission acted as though I didn't exist. I had to go back to Bakersfield and bring back statements from the California Athletic Commission and from the Mayor of Bakersfield. I had to prove to the Portland Boxing Commission that I had promoted boxing matches successfully in Bakersfield. They thought I was the old Thad Spencer." Spencer was referring to his past problem with substance abuse.

Spencer was asked why it took the Boxing Commission so long to grant him a matchmaker's license. He replied, "I hate to think it was because I'm Black. However, I feel politics were involved." He said there are individuals who would like to see him not promote boxing matches in Portland or the Pacific Northwest.

A case in point, he said, is the Feb. 4 article in the Skanner newspaper. In the article, Eddie Cotton, Commissioner of the Washington State Commission, was quoted as saying that the Commission would never grant another license to Spencer because of unpaid bills associated with his last fight card in the Sea-Tac area.

Spencer's response to the Skanner article was this: "I don't owe any bills for past matches I've promoted. If anyone can find bills I owe, I will be glad to pay them. No one called me before they wrote the story to hear my side regarding the charges levied against me."

He said the reason he is back in Portland is to bring back big time boxing to the Pacific Northwest. Spencer said he knows there is a market for boxing in the area. "I plan to have Portland on two national TV shows for boxing. This will help promote tourism for the state."

Thad Spencer Promotions is located on the west coast with offices in Bakersfield, California, and Portland. Thad Spencer is president/founder of Thad Spencer Promotions. William Moore is vice-president.

Hansen believes that the Northeast Neighborhood Association should adopt rules similar to their Southeast counterparts. He said presently the N.E. Housing and Community Development Steering Committee is illegitimate. "It is a political force."

Is Your Child A Problem Learner?

Parents whose children have difficulties in school often don't know where to turn for help. Learning disabilities and how they can be treated will be the topic of a program offered to the general public. The program will take place in the Conference Room of the Sylvan-Westgate Building, 5319 S.W. Westgate Drive (next to the Sylvan Exit off Highway 26).

"Learning Disabilities: Is Your Child A Problem Learner?" will be offered on Saturday, February 28th, from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Larry S. Hart, Ph.D., Psychologist; Christina Peterson, M.D., Neurologist; and Lin Clark, M.S., Ed., Learning Specialist, will discuss the different kinds of learning disabilities, how they are diagnosed, and the types of treatment available. Tips for parents on how to improve their child's learning will also be presented.

Cost of the program is \$7.00 per person or \$10.00 per couple. Seating is limited, so pre-registration is required. For more information, or to pre-register, call 297-2019.

TALK IS CHEAP, ACTION COSTS MONEY




Any company can talk about being a good corporate citizen, but at the Miller Brewing Company, we put our money where our mouth is. We sponsor and provide financial support for such educational programs as college scholarships and internships for Black students. We have spent millions of dollars to purchase goods and services from Black contractors and vendors. We sponsor workshops and seminars that teach Black contractors and vendors skills that help them more effectively do business with major corporations such as Miller. We contribute substantial sums to Black civic, charitable and civil rights

organizations. We have substantial sums of money on deposit with Black financial institutions that, in turn, make investments in projects that benefit their communities. We sponsor fund-raising events for programs that benefit Black communities. And, we employ Black people at all levels of the company. All this costs money, but we view our activities as an investment in the future of this country. By encouraging the economic development and participation of all segments of our society, we strengthen our whole society. That's why we're committed to our partnership with Black communities.

Miller

AT MILLER, COMMITMENT IS PART OF OUR BOTTOM LINE.
Beer Brewed by Miller Brewing Co., Milw., WI

DAVE'S



SHOP

buying everything of value
"We Pay Cash"
Open 10:00 - 5:00
Mon. - Sat.
5600 N.E. Union