

Boulevard Housing Draws Nods

Continued from front

building, parking arrangements and the type of amenities offered. NECDC and ONE Corp. are looking for community input on the final plans.

At a meeting last week, Channa Grace, one of ONE Corp.'s three owners, said she was looking for a "grass roots up" process in designing the project.

The corporation has hired Don Stastny Architects, 4114 N. Vancouver Ave., to take public comments on the project and prepare a draft proposal that can be reviewed at a second public meeting in late March.

"We consider ourselves a socially responsible affordable housing company," Grace said. "We want to develop decent, quality, safe, sanitary housing that not only looks nice, but makes people feel good, something that blends in with the fabric of the community. We will endeavor to listen to what you have to say."

Based on what they've already heard, she said, the project will be geared to households earning 50 percent or less of the community median and some to 30 percent or less. However, it will not seek Section 8 subsidized-housing tenants. Some of the units will have three and four bedrooms, since northeast Portland has a shortage of affordable family housing.

Rob Guill, a nearby resident, indicated he was uneasy about the project's size and the amount of traffic it might bring.

Portland Police Chief Charles Moose, who lives on Northeast Going Street, said he thought 60 units is "high." He also was concerned about the building possibly cutting off views of existing homes.

Grace said that the building would

be below the 80 units and 65 foot height the zoning allows.

Stephen Foust, land use chair of the King Neighborhood Association, told Grace, "If there's a way to have a window through which (Moose) can still see downtown, he'll appreciate it."

Foust said the project is in keeping with the King Association's plans and policies.

The group agreed to have higher density on Northeast Martin Luther King Boulevard, but not to have it continue so that it made a "canyon" of the street, he said. Instead, high density housing zones should alternate with the EXD mixed-use zone, which allows other kinds of development. Ironically, the ONE site is zoned EXD. So is the Standard Dairy building on Northeast Stanton Street to the south, scheduled to be redeveloped for 67 housing units.

Eugene Gora, who owns a welding shop near the ONE site, said he was less concerned about what was built than how it was managed.

Another neighbor, Margie Johnson, said, "Management in this town sucks. What happens if there are problems with your management company?"

Grace said a local company would manage the building, but that ONE would include a clause in its contract that would allow them to replace the management if there were problems. She also said that ONE might sell its interest in the project to NECDC after five years.

ONE and NECDC are currently negotiating the purchase of the property and seeking financing for the project. They hope to be able to begin construction by the fall but, Grace said, "We can't turn a shovel

until the whole (financial) pot's committed."

Despite some concerns, most people at the first meeting seemed to view the project favorably.

Moose said, "The land's been vacant a long time - so welcome. I'm concerned that all of Portland see this as long lasting and something to be proud of."

An elderly neighbor, Fannie Freeman, said, "My kids used to sleep in my yard. Now you can barely go in your yard, let alone sleep there. I hope these people will be good neighbors and that the good times will come back. I've lived here 41 years, seen a lot of changes, and this will be for the best."

Tightened On Cuba For Plane Shootings

President Clinton on Monday ordered sanctions against Cuba for the downing of two private U.S. planes including restrictions on Cuban diplomats, suspension of charter air travel and a proposal to tighten the economic embargo on the Caribbean island nation.

Appearing briefly in the White House press room to announce what actions he meant to take, Clinton accused Fidel Castro's government of deliberately shooting down two unarmed planes which it knew to be unarmed and over international waters last Saturday.

"This shooting of a civilian aircraft out of the air was a flagrant violation of international law. It is

wrong and the United States will not tolerate it," Clinton said.

Cuba's government dismissed the new sanctions, saying it would continue its current policies regardless.

"It just reveals the continuation of a policy of hostility against our country, that we face more of the same," Ricardo Alarcon, a senior figure in the Cuban hierarchy and president of the National Assembly, told a news conference in Havana.

Clinton listed five steps he was taking to punish Cuba including seeking legislation to compensate the families of the four missing fliers from blocked Cuban assets and travel restrictions on Cuban officials in the United States.

He also said he would seek prompt

agreement with Congress on legislation to tighten the existing U.S. embargo on Cuba, would expand Radio Marti, the U.S. government broadcast service into Cuba, and would suspend all charter air travel into Cuba from the United States.

Reacting to Clinton's decision to seek agreement with Congress on legislation to tighten the existing U.S. embargo against Cuba, Alarcon said:

"If he thinks that by doing this, he's going to win more votes, then good luck to him.

"We're ready to carry on living with or without the Helms-Burton law," he added. The law is the proposed legislation in Congress to tighten the Cuba embargo.

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