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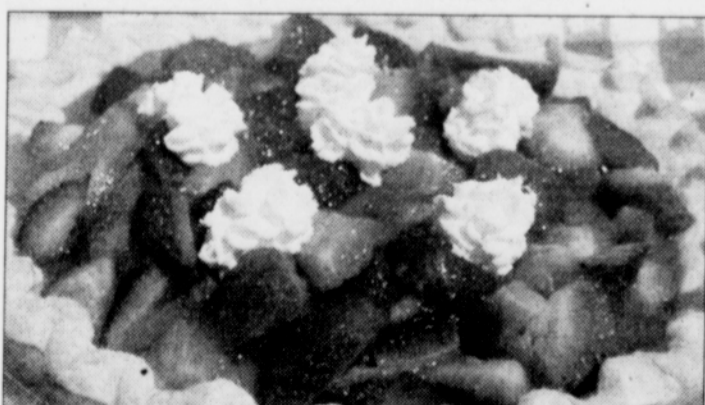
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What's on your list today?

LOCAL NEWS

Urban Renewal Redo

Expansion wins support of local leaders

BY JAKE THOMAS
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A community advisory panel gave the green light last week to expand urban renewal in north and northeast Portland. It also expressed support for two measures meant to mitigate gentrification in the area, while delaying to weigh in on a proposal to redevelop the Rose Quarter.

In August, the Portland Development Commission, the city's economic development arm, assembled a Community Advisory Committee of over 20 citizens, representing various interests, to evaluate the North/Northeast Economic Development Initiative, a proposal to expand the acreage of existing urban renewal areas in the region.

Meeting about once a month, the committee heard about the nuts and bolts of urban renewal, the historic effects of the controversial economic tool, how residents of the area felt about it, and what it could do for the region.

The committee voted overwhelmingly to expand the Oregon Convention Center and the Interstate Corridor urban renewal areas to encom-



Roy Jay

pass the St. Johns Town Center as well as properties along Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Alberta, Killingsworth, Lombard streets. It also voted to prioritize funding for the "Gem List," a \$70 million series of projects in the Interstate Corridor Urban Renewal Area.

The public comment period that preceded the vote revealed strong community support for the expansion of urban renewal, with several chairs of neighborhood association in north and northeast Portland speaking in favor of it

"People are coming to see this

process is a necessary and intentional one," said Chris Duffy, the chair of the Arbor Lodge Neighborhood Association.

Duffy told the Portland Observer after the meeting that residents were beginning to see urban renewal as a being as essential as city planning and a key tool to properly direct the rapid economic growth of the area.

During the meeting, Sarah Carlin Ames, representing Portland Public Schools on the committee, asked Roslyn Hill, a prominent developer on Alberta Street and committee member, for a clarification of why that street needed urban renewal when it appears to have no shortage of "chi-chi boutiques."

Hill explained that development on the once crime-ridden street has been uneven, with many lots left vacant, and some businesses sorely lacking capital.

"It has certain areas that will never be done [without urban renewal]," said Hill.

However, support isn't unanimous. The Eliot Neighborhood Association has come out against

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Job, Career Fair Saturday

Workers with vocational and trade skills are invited to a career and job fair on Saturday, May 29, from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. at Irvington Covenant Church, 4008 N.E. Martin Luther King Blvd

Straight Path, a non-profit mentoring and employment organization that works with ex-offenders, is sponsoring the event.

Individuals who have completed any of the Oregon State Apprenticeship programs or the training programs operated by Oregon Tradeswoman, Cascade Trades Preparation Courses, the Portland Youth Builders, or other programs are encouraged to attend.

All applicants should have cop-

ies of their certificate of graduation, ID, and resumes.

Straight Path is supported by the Bureau of Labor and Industries and Oregon Department of Transportation, Portland Development Commission, Weston Auto Dealerships, and City of Portland Bureau of Purchases. Child care will be provided during the event.

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