

Fort Pointe project gets another approval

The Columbia Press

Developers of Fort Pointe received unanimous approval in their first subdivision request for the 480-home planned-unit development south of the KOA.

But it was not without a struggle.

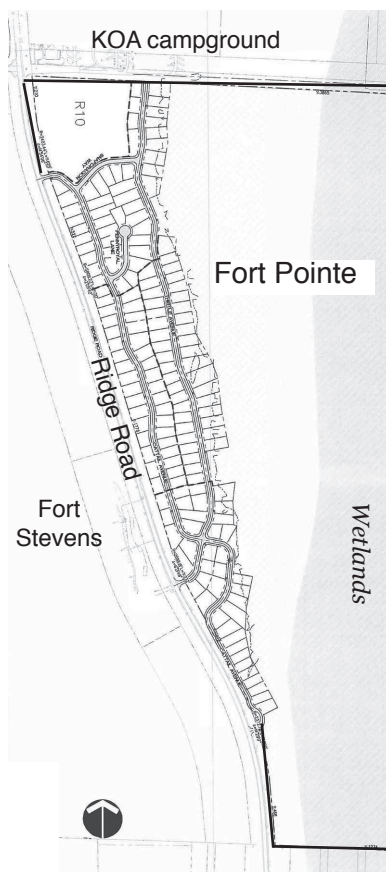
Developers initially had no plans to build neighborhood parks within the project, proposed sidewalks of asphalt on one side of the street only and requested narrower roads.

"This is a planned-unit development; it's not supposed to conform to the cookie-cutter," Adam Dailey, an engineer working on behalf of the developer, told the Warrenton Planning Commission in a Dec. 14 public hearing.

But commissioners stuck to the conditions they'd placed on the project in August.

"I think it's a little bit crazy a development of this size wouldn't have sidewalks on both sides," Commissioner Ryan Lampi said.

Members of the project



team contended the city was changing its conditions.

"We have good ideas on what we'd like to put in and want to move forward," Sur-

veyor Dale Barrett said.

The city imposed a new rule about parks 18 days after the application was in, he said. "Keep in mind we've been trying to keep up with things as they've been passed ... but that's difficult with the changing goalposts."

After a brief break, developers returned to the podium and told commissioners they agree to build 28-foot-wide local roads within the project and concrete sidewalks on both sides of the road.

Their proposal Dec. 14 included 53,000 square feet of space for several small parks built among the homes, which will be maintained by homeowners association dues.

"I think they've made a lot of concessions," Planning Commissioner Paul Mitchell said. "They're being a good steward for the community."

Commissioner Ken Yuill agreed. "The demand for building lots, I don't think I've ever seen it this great before."

Special election deals with health care funding

Health care funding is the focus of a special election set for Jan. 23 throughout the state.

State Ballot Measure 101 asks voters to approve or reject temporary assessments created as part of House Bill 2391, enacted by the 2017 Oregon Legislature to address health care funding issues.

Voters' pamphlets go out Dec. 26, followed by ballots on Jan. 2.

The bill provided funding to cover the cost of providing health care to low-income adults, children, families and individuals with disabilities, and to stabilize premiums charged by insurance companies for health insurance purchased by individuals and

Register to vote

You can register at the Clatsop County Elections Office (820 Exchange St., 2nd Floor, Astoria), at a post office, public library or the state Department of Motor Vehicles office.

You can also register online at sos.oregon.gov/voting.

families.

The bill placed a 1.5 percent assessment on premiums charged by health insurance companies, the Public Employees' Benefit Board, and managed care organizations for a two-year period.

It also added a 0.7 percent assessments on the net rev-

enue of some hospitals from Oct. 6, 2017, through July 1, 2019.

The measure asks voters to approve or reject the assessments and specifies that insurance companies may not increase health insurance premiums by more than 1.5 percent to cover the assessments.

If the measure passes, the assessments on some hospitals will be approved, subject to approval by a federal agency. If the measure does not pass, the assessments will be rejected, or delayed until approved by a federal agency.

The last day to register to vote in the election is Jan. 2. Measure details can be found on the county's website.

Wauna Credit Union will serve cannabis industry with new software

For the first time since pot was legalized in Oregon, a local credit union has stepped in to serve their business banking needs.

Wauna Credit Union announced a partnership this week with Hypur, a financial technology company in Scottsdale, Arizona.

The partnership means Wauna can offer compliant, transparent banking services to cannabis-related businesses through Hypur's software, the Clatskanie-based credit union announced in a press release. Wauna has more than 25,000 members in Oregon and Washington.

"Wauna CU believes that providing banking access to CRBs benefits not only the businesses themselves, but the entire community by bringing transparency and accountability to the cannabis industry," Wauna wrote in their announcement. "As a new industry that poses unique banking challenges, Wauna CU has taken care-

ful steps in ensuring their full compliance with state and federal law and policy."

Marijuana is listed federally as a "Schedule I" drug — a designation that includes LSD, heroin and ecstasy. Despite its legalization in Oregon, Washington, California and other states, it remains illegal on the federal level.

Some banks have feared they'd be held criminally liable should a marijuana business run afoul of the law.

Cannabis businesses have had to be cash-only, making them vulnerable to robberies.

"Serving the CRB industry, we become part of the solution and not part of the problem," said Robert Blumberg, chief executive officer and president of Wauna.

Inquiries about Wauna Credit Union's Cannabis Business Solutions account applications and opening procedures can be made by calling 800-773-3236.

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