

Aptos Chamber takes stand against Rio del Mar bike lanes

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1 APTOS — The Chamber of Commerce here this morning took a belated stand against bicycle lanes in Rio del Mar, directing a congratulatory letter be sent to the Rio del Mar Improvement Association for its recent unsuccessful battle.

Despite the association's year-long effort against the installation of bicycle lanes, county supervisors approved the so-called "safety striping" last month as part of their Five-Year Road and Bicycle Program.

Chamber directors, led by Bob McKenzie, voted 12-3 in agreeing the association's concerns over safety were valid. They believe the striping will invite bicyclists to ride on the already-dangerous streets.

A \$2,000 expenditure was approved for the striping on Clubhouse Drive this year. Included in the program approval was \$30,000 for striping on Rio del Mar Boulevard in 1985 and \$60,000 for Sumner Avenue in 1987.

Supervisors described the projects as "safety striping" rather than bicycle lanes since the streets would not be widened or shoulders built.

"Clubhouse is absolutely the worst choice in the Rio del Mar area," McKenzie said afterward. "It's just the overall safety problem due to the twisting road and varying elevation."

Fellow chamber director Glenn Specht, however, disagreed with the motion. She

said later that the striping would at least act as a delineation for bicyclists to know where to ride.

Second (Aptos) District Robley Levy, who was in attendance and voted for the striping, maintained her stand.

She said that she would not have changed her mind even had she known the chamber's stance beforehand.

"To me, it's still the issue of safety — safety to bicyclists, safety to children and safety to motorists," Levy said. "There's many roads in the county with safety striping and I think it's beneficial."

In other business, the Nominating Committee was directed to come up with names for five director vacancies. The chamber also heard a report on the Council of Improvement Association.

Those directors whose terms are expiring include Specht, McKenzie, Linda McNabb, Nancy Schmidt and Virgil Kester Jr. The election will be done by mail in September.

The objective of the Council of Improvement Association is to provide "one strong voice," according to chairperson Beverly Moore.

She told directors that the association has a representative membership of some 3,800 area residents. It is made up of representatives from five improvement associations — Rio del Mar, Aptos Seascape, Aptos Terrace, Seacliff and Rolling Greens.

The chamber directed that a chamber liaison be appointed to the Council at a later date.