

Annexation move opposed by Chamber

The Aptos Chamber of Commerce will oppose efforts by the city of Capitola to annex the Porter-Sesnon property along the freeway across from Cabrillo College.

At a meeting of Chamber directors Thursday, Mrs. Glenn Specht reported on

Capitola's move to expand the city's sphere of influence, a necessary first step toward annexation. The Capitola city council recently adopted an environmental impact report on the sphere of influence expansion after public hearings before the city's planning

commission and council. Hearings before the planners were marked by strong protests from the Pinetree Lane and Pot Belly Beach residents, who don't want to be a part of the city nor of the proposed city of Aptos, if it is incorporated. But the hearings

before the city council were unattended by the residents, and the EIR was accepted without dissent. It now goes to the Local Agency Formation Commission where, if it is accepted, annexation proceedings can begin.

In accepting the EIR, the Capitola council put the Porter-Sesnon and Amitron properties into "special planning area" categories and left the Pinetree Lane and Pot Belly Beach areas in their present residential uses.

Declaring she didn't think Capitola would be permitted to annex the property, Mrs. Specht said it was, nonetheless, necessary for the Chamber to oppose it. She said Capitola has asked the state to purchase the Porter-Sesnon property and put it into park use, which would include overnight camping. "I don't think that's the kind of use the nearby neighbors want," she said, adding that it is unlikely that the state will buy the property and that, even if it did, it would be several years before it could be accomplished.

"This is something we can't be lackadaisical about," said Chamber President Larry Wrathall. "It speaks well of Capitola to be able to move on this, but if we feel strongly about it we should make our feelings known."

The Porter-Sesnon property is a key element in the Chamber's effort to incorporate Aptos into a city, the directors feeling that control of its use rightly rests with Aptos. Capitola officials feel the same way about it, as do members of the Soquel Chamber of Commerce who have included it within the boundaries of a proposed city they hope to incorporate.

In the matter of the Aptos incorporation, Mrs. Specht reported that a total of 3,000 signatures will be needed on the petitions for incorporation, and that the six months the Chamber has to gather them "is halfway through." At a recent incorporation committee meeting Mrs. Specht reported about 1,000 signatures had been gathered. An accurate count of the signatures will be made at the committee's next meeting on Thursday, 7:30 a.m. at the Cook Book restaurant in Seacliff.

President Wrathall told the directors that "we are nearing the moment of truth" on incorporation, and urged the directors to get busy on the signature drive. "It's very hard to keep up with this when we don't feel the support around us," he said.

In other matters, the Chamber directors:

— Heard a report that the Chamber's annual banquet, scheduled for Saturday night at Seascapes Lodge, has been cancelled due to lack of support. It was agreed to hold an informal "mixer" on Friday, Dec. 7, at which time the Chamber awards to the man, woman and business of the year will be given.

— Heard a report from Lucile Aldrich that the Chamber's Christmas promotion will begin on Dec. 8 with Santa Claus riding through the various Aptos business areas "on a brand new garbage truck. The theme this year is

'Clean up by shopping in Aptos,' " Mrs. Aldrich said.

— Approved a motion to write the Board of Supervisors urging them to fund the Aptos Fire Department "to the 1977-78 limit of funding" in order to preserve the paramedic program there. It was reported the fire department is \$140,000 short on its budget and hopes to make up the difference through the county's allocation of state funds to special districts.

— Agreed to support the Deer Park Shopping center in its attempt to get county permission to erect a sign on the rear wall of a building that would be visible from the freeway. Marilyn Gordon, the shopping center manager, said she had applied for a permit for a three-foot by 12-foot wooden, non-illuminated sign saying "Deer Park," but the Zoning Administrator had cut the sign back to 15-square feet. She said she is appealing the decision to the Planning Commission and asked Chamber to support the application. It was agreed to do so if the sign does not vary from the Chamber's own sign program.