

Convention Center Foes Protest To City, County

Opponents of the Lighthouse Point convention center took their views to the Santa Cruz City Council Tuesday night — and were told they came to the wrong place.

"Go to the Joint Powers Authority," said City Manager Dave Koester.

But opponents weren't convinced, pointing out the city council has three seats out of

five on the authority, as well as zoning and development control of the property.

Earlier Tuesday, Jerry Yudelson, spokesman for the center opponents, took the issue to county supervisors.

He said the "whole development reeks of public subsidy for private use only" and asked, "Why should we spend money on open space studies and then

develop the choicest remaining open land in the city?"

Yudelson asked the county to take a close look at this year's Over-all Economic Development Program report that places the convention center as its "number one priority." He said the facility would provide only "menial jobs" of low pay and wouldn't boost the local economy as some forecast.

The board indicated it might discuss the issue as an agenda item in the near future, but Supervisor Ralph Sanson was critical that opposition to the center is coming so late, after a federal grant for \$1.54 million has been approved by the Economic Development Administration, if a hotel is located at the site. Teachers Management, Inc., owners of the property, are currently meeting with hotel firms.

Yudelson told city councilmen later that the convention center will be leased back to the city, and the city has obligated itself to pay any deficits from the center for the next 48 years. Yudelson filed with the council petitions containing 376 signatures against the Lighthouse Point site.

But he said he will appear before the authority to carry the protest to them as well on June 11.

"Our request is for a public meeting, to get some questions answered before we have to seek legal recourse, which we have grounds for," Yudelson declared. He predicted developers will not live up to their "claims" for Lighthouse Point.

Convention center opponents want to keep Lighthouse Point undeveloped, and suggest it be made into a city park as the last remaining open coastline area in the city.

"You can double my taxes if you want to build a park out there," said Harry Stoll of 119 Highland Ave. "If you want hotels and shopping centers out there, you're a damn fool." It's like taking Golden Gate Park (in San Francisco) and filling it with Jack Tar hotels, the Cow Palace, and so forth."

Mayor Al Castagnola replied that he wanted to "set the record straight."

"A convention center is an old idea, that came up long before Lighthouse Point," Castagnola said. "Santa Cruz was in the convention business a long time ago, in the '30s and '40s. But the convention business became highly sophisticated and it dwindled in Santa Cruz."

"The convention industry is a clean industry, and it was determined that for a variety of reasons Santa Cruz could not attract other types of industry."

"Alternate sites were considered at planning commission meetings, by the city council and the joint powers authority four or five years ago, and it was determined Lighthouse Point was the best site. We have agreements signed with developers, and I, for one, don't plan to go back now," the mayor concluded.

Planning Director Neal Walton, who is resigning to become a private consultant, said Lighthouse Point already is zoned for P-D (planned district) uses, and some change in use "does not open it up for rezoning again."

After Koester suggested the opponents take their questions to the joint powers authority, Councilman Richard Werner, a member of the authority, asked the questions to be submitted in advance so answers would be ready by the next meeting.

Opposition Forms Against Proposed Convention Center

By WALLY TRABING

Opposition to the use of the field opposite Lighthouse Point on West Cliff Drive for a proposed convention center complex was spelled out this morning at the point by Jerry Yudelson of Save Lighthouse Point Association.

Yudelson said his group feels the convention center should "be moved closer to downtown Santa Cruz, if it is to be built at all" instead of on the 36-acre West Cliff Drive site.

The association backed the following points:

1. The Lighthouse Point field is the most important urban coastal open space in this area and should be preserved for a public park.

2. The convention center development represents a tremendous public subsidy for private profiteers. It will have a major negative impact on existing small businesses, downtown and all around Santa Cruz, especially restaurants, motels and specialty shops.

3. The complex will destroy the current character of the Lighthouse Point neighborhood, adding huge traffic volumes (a million or more tourists annually) and increasing taxes through speculative land value appreciation.

4. The existing uses of the Lighthouse Point area for public recreation and enjoyment will be severely damaged by the development of a six-story hotel, shopping center, 2400-car parking lot, and luxury apartment complexes.

5. The convention center development at the point could open the door for the following detrimental projects: the beach loop (Route 100) freeway down Ocean Street and across the Beach Street area; an airport on the north coast to serve the center; high density residential

coastal development in West Santa Cruz.

"We are circulating petitions and informational leaflets around Santa Cruz," said Yudelson. "The petitions demand a halt to any convention center on the Lighthouse Point field and requests the city council to hold a public meeting on all plans for the center complex."

"We presented 375 signatures to the council Tuesday night," he said, "but in an appalling disregard of its responsibilities to the people of Santa Cruz, it refused this modest request and shunted us off onto the Convention Center Joint Powers Authority, which does not meet again for another month."

"We will appear before that body, but we will continue to request the city council to take direct action in this matter."

Yudelson said the association learned that Teachers Management Inc., (TMI), owners of most of the property, was close to signing a developer to build a multi-million dollar hotel and tourist-oriented commercial center.

The association sent a wire Monday to Sheraton's New Hotel Division in Boston.

It read: "Rumor Sheraton Hotel for Lighthouse Point Convention Center in Santa Cruz. For your information, a large citizens' group has formed. The Save Lighthouse Point Association is preparing a legal court suit to block this development. Don't waste your time."

Yudelson said that a "Save Mother Earth" Mothers Day picnic will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday at Lighthouse Point to gain supporters. He asked, however, that cars avoid parking on the property involved, and urged supporters to bring signs, balloons and kites.

Headquarters for the association may be reached by calling 426-5755.

Co-chairmen for the group are Katherine Beiers and Russ Cline.

Coastal Study Meet Thursday

The city-county committee studying the north coast will meet Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in room 204 of the city hall annex, 809 Center St.

The committee, appointed by the city planning commission, includes planning commissioners north coast property owners and County Planning Director Walter Monasch. The planning commission originally planned to open public hearings on the written criteria for the north coast on May 24, but that may be delayed to June.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF HEARING

PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL

AND FOR LETTERS

TESTAMENTARY

No. 24868

In the Superior Court of the State of California in and for the County of Santa Cruz.

In the Matter of the Estate of GEORGE E. SWEENEY, Deceased.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT JOHN RODGER HAWTHORN, as Executor of the Will of the above named decedent, has filed herein a Petition for Probate of Will and for Letters Testamentary, reference to which is hereby made for further particulars, and that the same is hereby set for hearing by the Court on Monday, May 22, 1972, at 9:00 a.m., in Court Room No. 3 of the above entitled Court, in the Courthouse, 701 Ocean St., Santa Cruz, California.

ALL PERSONS INTERESTED ARE NOTIFIED to appear at the time and place mentioned in this notice and show cause, if any they have, why the order should not be made.

Dated May 5, 1972.

TOM M. KELLEY,

Clerk of said Court

By DOROTHY SNAVELY,

Deputy Clerk

BROWN & WRIGHT

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Attorneys for Petitioner

May 10, 1972 (19760)