

Time may be running out to fix up wharf this year

Negotiations for the purchase of the Capitola Wharf lease are at a standstill, city council members were told Monday night.

The city has been negotiating, through a two-man subcommittee, with Robert Mason, who is in the process of acquiring the wharf lease from Robert Berry's Capitola Wharf, Inc.

Councilman Jerry Clarke told the other council members that the committee has not met with Mason for the last three weeks.

Mason, Clarke said, is asking \$150,000 cash, plus a lifetime option to operate a commercial business, such as a restaurant, on the wharf.

"But if we refused to allow the commercial use, the price would be considerably higher," Clarke added.

How much higher, Mason would not discuss, Clarke said.

The city is considering a joint venture with the state's Wildlife Conservation Board to rebuild and then operate the pier as a fishing pier.

But state policy on the fishing piers seems to effectively ban commercial uses.

A 1961 policy statement says in part:

"The pier or portion thereof for which state funds are expended should be used exclusively for fishing and activities related thereto.

"No charge for pier access should be made."

Councilman Robert Garcia, the other half of the city's negotiating team, is opposed to the kind of commercial use envisioned by Mason and his associates.

"My personal feeling about the exclusive right forever to commercial use of the wharf is that I'm very apprehensive."

Mayor Michael Routh said he thought it was now up to Mason to make a new approach to the city.

Councilman Ron Graves reiterated his objections to dealing with Mason. Graves believes that the city should be talking to former wharf owner Tom Shanahan, who holds a note on the wharf.

"I really think it is too late this year to consider repairing the wharf. No contractor

would want to put heavy equipment on the wharf when there is a possibility of storms."

The council was originally told by City Manager Max Kludt that the state Wildlife Conservation Board would be willing to share in the reconstruction and the maintenance and operation costs for the wharf on three-to-one basis.

However, information furnished the council Monday night indicates the state policy is to participate only in the construction phase, with city bound to assume all maintenance and operational expenses afterwards.

"Maintenance and operation will be undertaken by the cooperating agency (city) and without cost to the state," the Board's policy states.

And a sample lease, executed with the city of San Clemente, indicates that the state is adhering to the 1961 policy. And the state holds title to the pier, leasing it back to the operating agency.

Reorganized 4-H Club to meet

Live Oak 4-H Club will hold an introductory meeting for new members Dec. 5 at 7:30 p.m. in the Green Acres School library.

Parents have been asked to accompany their children to the meeting. Membership is open to all those ages 8-17 years.

The club is a reorganization of the Live Oak 4-H, and the group held its first meeting several weeks ago. Among the projects planned for the 4-H are rabbit raising, horse training and care, boy's cooking and sewing. Additional ideas have been invited, and the group is seeking parental support.

Refreshments will be served.

Installation of new officers

Officers for Senior Citizens Opportunities will be installed during a monthly luncheon meeting to be held at noon Friday at the SCO Hall, 222 Market St., Santa Cruz.

Members will bring foods for the potluck, and will need their own table service. The meeting will follow the luncheon.