Capitola Motel Variance Passes

The Capitola Planning Commission, over the strong objections of a citizens group Monday night, granted the developer of a downtown motel approval to exceed the 25-foot height limit.

The developer, Herbert Cuevas, wants to construct a motel-restaurant where the Arcadian Gardens is currently. According to City Planner Pat McCormick, Cuevas would

level the building and put up a new one.

But there are objections from the The Capitola Village Merchants Association and the Depot Hill Association. The groups protested the idea of waiving the height restriction.

McCormick said that after the discussion about the height variance — which passed on a 4-0 vote — two persons approached him to ask how to file an appeal with the city council.

Once the height question is answered, Cuevas must file other applications — such as for architectural approval — before construction can begin.

In other planning commission business, it looks as though the old Disco building on

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Bay Avenue will go back into use.

The building, which has been vacant since Disco went out of business three years ago, was recently purchased by Santa Cruz Lumber Co.

Now, the building will be leased to Richard Bullock, owner of Odyssey Records, who wants to develop it into warehouses and shops — including the warehouse for the Odyssey Record chain.

The shops at the building would have separate entrances; doors and windows would be cut into the building around the perimeter. According to McCormick, those shops would include offices, shops, auto repair and a carpentry shop.

The planning commission awarded Santa Cruz Lumber and Bullock a use permit for 10 years. That is the length of the lease between Bullock and the owners, and after the lease is up, the use permit will have to be renegotiated.

According to McCormick, that arrangement was the result of a requirement that the commission placed on the developers: that a 10-foot ease-

ment be given to the city near Soquel Creek for a possible foot path in the future.

Neither the owner nor the tenant could give the city an assurance of an agreement for the easement permanently, but they could give that assurance for the duration of the 10-year lease agreement, McCormick said. Consequently, the planning commission okayed the use permit for that period of time.

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