

Money now available for Aptos park plans

By CAROLYN
HEEBNER-SWIFT

Aptos Chamber of Commerce heard some encouraging news Thursday morning about the county's plans for Aptos Village Park.

Chamber Director Glenn Specht said the county Parks and Recreation Department has received money in the budget this year to develop a general plan for the park. This will result in a number of public hearings and consultant studies, she said, and ultimately the plan will be approved by the County Board of Supervisors with funds provided for implementation.

When it's finished, Mrs. Specht added, the plan will provide for the acceptance and placement of donations for the park. In the past, the handling of donations has posed a problem.

The funding for a park plan coincides with the chamber's decision last month to initiate preliminary studies on paving the park entrance road. The director said the chamber has asked that paving of the road be included as part of the plan, and has again offered to provide volunteer assistance for this project.

"We can help see that we can get the most mileage out of the small amount of dollars allocated to the park," she said.

Bruce Burns, chamber director and engineer in charge of the preliminary study, said he was assured by the parks department that the county will support the chamber's efforts. He added that he is somewhat dismayed, however, because the county master plan for the park will involve additional time and may delay the project.

Although the chamber will continue to pursue development of its plans to pave the road, Burns said the "hooker" in the project is the county's insistence on an 18-foot wide roadway. Estimated costs for this width plus the parking area will amount to a "hefty tab," Burns told directors.

The chamber will continue its work on a "step-by-step" basis, and will begin to solicit support from other Aptos organizations further on in the project's progress.

Other news received by the chamber during its monthly meeting at the Pop Inn was less cheerful. Reports about the chamber's booth at the Aptos Fourth of July parade included a dismal announcement that after costs and even with donated labor — the net profit was only \$87.64. Had the volunteers been paid even a nickel an hour, directors mused, the

endeavor would have been "a real loser."

Director Lucille Aldrich explained that a "gigantic error," occurred during the event that may have decreased the business of the booths that were paid participants in the July 4 event. Each year, she said, the Aptos Tuesday Evening Ladies Society has paid for the Musicians' Union to play in the parade and provide entertainment afterward. This year, however, they chose a site to play near booths that set-up independently and were not in any way contributors to the costs of the parade.

Mrs. Aldrich said she was unaware of the band's location away from the chamber-sponsored booths until after the event.

"Otherwise, the parade this year was by far the best we've ever had," she said, "There were about 7,000 people, and everything was beautiful and orderly."

In her promotions report, Mrs. Aldrich also announced plans for the annual chamber dinner, to be held Oct. 17 at Deer Park. The speaker will be Cabrillo College history instructor Sandy Lydon, who will talk about the past of Aptos and the Chinese fishing settlement at China Beach.

Among the speakers at the chamber meeting was Ted Colton, who was awarded a life membership last month for his service to the chamber and the Aptos community.

Colton thanked chamber directors and complimented their efforts to stop the impromptu used car lots that have become a problem in the community.

In a later report, Chamber President Larry Wrathall told directors that letters about the problem of parked cars have been sent to the Sheriff's Department and the enforcement division of the county Planning Department. Wrathall emphasized that the practice of parking cars for sale on the south side of the Pacific Telephone building on Soquel Drive is a violation of the zoning ordinance.

The director said he sent copies to Pacific Telephone, to the Rio del Mar Improvement Association which has expressed similar concern, and to Barbara Moser, who first approached the chamber for assistance. Wrathall also contacted a majority of the car owners who had left their automobiles at the site, warning them of the chamber's intent. Most of the owners, he added, said they understood the situation and agreed to move the vehicles.