

Aptos CofC reiterates support for Wingspread

APTOS — The Aptos Chamber of Commerce obviously hopes the third time will be the charm as both directors and members this morning reiterated unwavering support of the proposed Wingspread Beach development.

The chamber board last year was among the first organizations to back the proposal for the largest-ever convention/performing arts complex in the county. The development is proposed on the 67-acre Porter-Sesnon property across Highway 1 from Cabrillo College. They reaffirmed that endorsement late last year.

Their reaffirmation this morning, however, came with a condition that performing arts facilities be included in the project.

The unanimous stands came in votes of 36-0 by members in attendance, and 11-0 by the chamber board of directors.

Wingspread applicants' Hare, Brewer and Kelley have recently made two scaled-down proposals to the county. One of those concerned the chamber since it involved building 200, 600-square-foot motel units and convention facilities, but no performing arts center.

The chamber's support is for the second alternative which includes building 295, 1,275-square-foot motel units to serve the convention facilities and includes the performing arts complex. The number and size of the units, though, are more than the General Plan and Local Coastal Program allow.

Wingspread spokesman Ry Kelley last week told members of the Santa Cruz Chamber of Commerce's Economic Concerns Committee that he feels the fate of the entire proposal lies in the hands of Second (Aptos) District Supervisor Robley Levy. Ac-

cording to Kelley, Levy represents the "swing" vote on the five-member county Board of Supervisors.

A letter expressing the chamber's stand will be sent to Levy and other supervisors. Members were also urged to send Levy individual letters, as well.

Chamber President Brewster Burns told The Sentinel he feels the total 47-0 vote in favor of Wingspread is certainly a "strong message."

"Beyond a doubt," he added, "the chamber wants the performing arts facilities included in any proposal. That message is clear."

In other business, chamber members were reminded of the fast-approaching April 10 deadline to file property tax refund applications with the county Assessor's Office.

Lee Phelps, an Aptos resident and state chairman of the Alliance of California Taxpayers and Independent Voters, explained that the county is taking refund applications of 6 percent of property taxes paid in 1978. This came about through a San Mateo County Superior Court decision regarding overpayment after Proposition 13 passed.

No refunds, however, will be granted until a final decision is made. The case has been appealed to the San Francisco District Court of Appeal and is expected to go to the state Supreme Court.

In the meantime, however, the public has only four years from the date of payment to file a claim for refund. That deadline for 1978 is April 10.

Applications for refunds are available at the Assessor's Office in the County Center or by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to the County Assessor, 701 Ocean St., Room 130, Santa Cruz, 95060.

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