

URA Changes Decision

Greyhound Invited To Retain Present Front Street Depot

By Jack Rannells

Grayhound Bus lines has been given a conditional invitation to remain in its present facility at 702 Front street as a participant in the urban redevelopment San Lorenzo park project.

The move was announced by URA Director Olin Carl White at a meeting of the agency Friday afternoon.

Thus, the "hot potato" issue which had involved, directly or indirectly, the URA, the county board of supervisors, the Greater Santa Cruz Chamber of Commerce and the Downtown Businessmen's association, was plopped back into the laps of Greyhound officials.

The offer was tipped off when condemnation proceedings against the depot, set for jury trial tomorrow, was dropped unexpectedly from the superior court calendar last Tuesday.

White said URA and Greyhound attorney will iron out the conditions of participation on the earliest possible date after acceptance.

White said he and Board Member Charles Hall set forth the following tentative conditions in a meeting Thursday with A. A. Smith of the Greyhound office in San Francisco:

Greyhound will:

1. Purchase the front portion of what is now Short street at the resale value.
2. Remodel the front of the building to meet architect's standards.
3. Discontinue use of the Front street entrance, using only Short street.
4. Bring the property into conformity with San Lorenzo park landscaping standards.
5. Bear the cost of engineering necessitated to alter proposed grading of Short street. It was to be graded from the levee to Front street and a retaining wall will be required (if the street is to remain).

Any such participation plan involves use of the property in its present capacity for at least 25 years, White said.

White said Smith left the meeting "with preliminary agreement in hand and head shaking in the affirmative."

Both White and Hall expressed hopes for a "quick answer."

Hall expressed some doubt that — planning wise — the Front street property is the proper place for a bus depot. He said it was not in the right area and that it was too small (17,500 square feet including Short street) for long range use.

"In view of the fact that there

seems to be no suitable replacement area," he said, "participation seems the best solution." The remainder of the board was in agreement.

The eminent domain proceedings by the URA against Greyhound were tabbed a "friendly suit" when filed last September. However, there followed a flurry of protest by the chamber of commerce and the businessmen's association.

White, at the time of filing, said the suit was urged by federal URA officials. At first it was understood the depot would be removed and replaced with a car sales center.

In recent months, URA had been informed that the county would like the property for a service garage.

White said URA thought it had county support in the condemnation suit; but earlier this month it received a minute letter from Supervisor Lewis Nelson saying that the county was interested only in the event URA felt it "absolutely necessary" to acquire the property.

In other discussion Friday, White reported on a "fruitful" redevelopment conference he attended recently at Madison, Wis.

Assistant Director Ted McDonald said negotiations with Palomar garage for exchange of Front street property would be continued in a meeting Tuesday.

Racing Sedans Kill Woman, 87

San Francisco (AP) — Two sedans racing along the highway near San Francisco's Playland beach at speeds up to 100 miles an hour were blamed for the death Saturday of Mrs. Lottie Hawkins, 79.

She was a passenger in a small foreign car struck by one of the sedans whose driver, John L. Hawthorne, 32, was booked on charges of felony and manslaughter. The driver of the other sedan fled the scene.

Police said Hawthorne is a parolee from a burglary sentence in San Quentin.

The victim's son-in-law, Jack Hawkins, 37, and his wife, Frances, 35, were injured slightly.

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