

Santa Cruz to allow historical 2-15-88 houses to be used as lodges

SANTA CRUZ — With John Laird and Mardi Wormhoudt dissenting, the City Council Tuesday voted to allow a limited number of bed and breakfast inns in historical landmark houses in residential neighborhoods.

Opponents of a bed and breakfast ordinance claim the commercial nature of the inns will destroy the family character of residential neighborhoods.

"We barely have enough housing now for the people who live here," commented Wormhoudt in casting her dissenting vote.

The council adopted regulations calling for the motels to be managed and occupied by the property owner and for a space of 1,500 feet or three

blocks, whichever is greater, between inns.

The inn must be located in a house listed on the city's Historic Building Survey.

A permit will be required if there is renovation inside the house to assure preservation of the house's historic value.

Also, when establishments are in single-family zones, they must be located within 300 feet of the zone boundary and on a main street.

Lighted signs were banned.

Even before the ordinance was approved, one bed and breakfast promoter ran a newspaper advertisement telling readers to "treat your Valentine to a night on the ocean" at

"The Darling House, a Santa Cruz Bed and Breakfast Inn by the sea" at 314 West Cliff Drive.

The ad offers "free carriage rides along the ocean" and "evening sherry by Tiffany lamps," not to mention "breakfast at an open hearth."

Bed and breakfast opponent Maryellen Boyle sent a copy of the ad to the council with the comment: "I am dismayed that they (the Darlings) have the audacity to pursue this motel venture without even waiting for the ordinance to pass..."

"And I am appalled that they intend to offer carriage rides. The Boardwalk ends several blocks east of this neighborhood. Will a ferris wheel pop up next weekend on the front lawn?"