

Plans split on civic center ideas

"I believe the merchants in the downtown core would be responsive to the use of the historical district as a unifying theme to revitalize the area," she told the meeting, called by the city's property committee and the Chamber of Commerce's civic affairs committee.

Portland architect Mel Kroker has presented four options to the city for a new civic center to replace crowded, outdated City Hall. One is the renovation of the old Imperial Hotel at First and College streets, combined with revitalization of the commercial core along a historical theme.

That idea came under some criticism at last week's meeting.

"I can't see any reason to move from one old brick-wood building to

another," said George Layman, former city attorney and president of the Herbert Hoover Foundation. He suggested the present City Hall be expanded and remodeled.

Layman was backed by Stewart Harris, chairman of the city Traffic Safety Commission; May Moody, who has presented the council with a petition signed by 368 people against the development of a civic center in Hoover Park, and City Councilor Roger Gano.

Layman said he had been approached by several people asking him to initiate a petition for a charter amendment which would require all parks to be maintained for park and recreation purposes only, unless a

change were approved by a vote of the people.

Kroker has suggested a bridgeliike civic center across the northern gully of Hoover Park, but surrounding property owners have expressed strong opposition.

Another option — purchase of Central School on North Blaine and Sheridan streets — was described by Dennis Day, a local businessman and chairman of the Newberg Friends of the Library, as "ideal." School Superintendent Gerald Post acknowledged that the two-story brick building would make "a super city hall," but that replacement costs for the school district would probably be prohibitive.

Tigard says 'no' to plans for housing

By BARBARA COLEMAN
Correspondent, The Oregonian

TIGARD — The City Council has unanimously overturned a Tigard Planning Commission decision which would have allowed construction of 10 single-family, attached dwelling units on Grant Avenue between School and Park streets.

The action last week was the result of an appeal to the council by residents who claimed the development did not comply with the city's comprehensive plan. Zoning for the area would allow 10 single-family homes on the three-acre site.

Titan Properties Corp., the developer, reported that the project, which would have been called Winsome Terrace, would contain low- to moderate-income housing.

Councilman Ken Scheckla said he feared the attached homes would become rentals and contribute to the deterioration of the neighborhood.

Hillsboro turns down shelter home request

HILLSBORO — The Hillsboro City Council has unanimously turned down an appeal by the Washington County Community Action Agency to operate a 20-bed emergency shelter home for low-income families at 859 S.E. Washington St.

The April 15 decision upholds an earlier ruling by the city Hearings Board.

The council had not been expected to rule on the issue until May 6 because of two clerical errors made when notices were sent to neighboring property owners informing them that a hearing would be held on this issue. But City Manager Eldon Mills urged the council to act immediately.

"Everyone has already testified," he said, "and there's been a considerable opportunity for you, as council members, to be tainted because of many letters to the editor and other deliberations. Both sides deserve an answer expeditiously."

Councilwoman Shirley Huffman cited new findings of fact to deny the conditional use permit for the shelter home and said, "This just isn't the proper location for a shelter home because of its impact on the neighborhood. This is one of the oldest, well-established neighborhoods in town."

Additional noise created by the shelter home and increased foot and vehicular traffic would create an "adverse impact on the neighborhood," she said.

Jerralynn Ness, the agency's director of community advocate programs, said she was stunned by the decision. "Community pressure did it," she said. "It's difficult to pass an issue like this when everyone is opposed."

The agency has received a \$140,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development through its Community Development Block Program, to purchase a shelter home facility. It faces a July 1 deadline to use the money.