

August 12, 2015

RECEIVED

AUG 13 2015

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

To: Honorable Mayor Wheeler and City Councilors

Re: Southeast Plan

Unfortunately I am unable to attend the Council Session of August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015 but wanted to share some thoughts on the inclusion of the continued/additional land space to the adopted Southeast Plan. When adopted the Southeast Plan was one of the key planned growth communities for the city of Medford. Including areas for growth in Residential, higher density housing, Estate lots, parks, schools, commercial and potential churches. All connected via park systems and bike pathways extending to and connecting to the Bear Creek Greenway. All in an area that was really deemed nonagricultural land as it is mostly hillsides and star thistle. The expansion of the Southeast Plan was to eventually connect the existing communities of the upper Hillcrest road (Eagle Trace area) to the areas around Cherry Lane. In the process it would bring much needed utilities (water and sewer) to the property on the North side of Cherry Lane that is underdeveloped and deemed nonagricultural land. Through due process and the willingness of the developers they were going to provide some of the community upgrades in connecting the new parks with existing and future parks through an extensive bike and pedestrian path system eventually extending to the City Park on Roxy Ann Butte. As a current resident near the access road to Roxy Ann I can attest to the already high use of that park by walkers and bicyclists. A viable trail system would increase the livability of the whole Westside of RoxyAnn.

At one time the RVCOG and an extensive Land use study on Regional urban growth boundaries indicated most of our communities wanted to maintain open spaces between communities and protect the existing agricultural land. So it concerns me when I see the potential disappearance of the agricultural land north of Central Point, North of Medford around Coker Butte, potential disappearance of Hillcrest Orchard and Vineyard land and even the potential build out south of Medford around North Phoenix road that is space between communities and viable farm land.

Having lived in Medford for the past 60 years as a third generation resident I have seen a lot of the growth of our community. Some of that growth has been ill planned and hap hazard. Not enough has been as thought out and with as much input as the Southeast plan of Medford. I would urge you not drop this project now and embrace the type of quality communities that Mike Mahar and his company have continually produced. Summerfield is one of the most desirable neighborhoods in Medford, having lived there as well as worked in two of Mr. Mahar's office parks I can attest to the fore thought and commitment to community and quality of those communities. I am unaware of any other local developer that spends as much time, effort and money in trying to make Medford a great place to live, work and recreate.

I urge the City Council to continue this long range thought out plan and completion of the Southeast plan connecting the communities off of Hillcrest to the future commercial and community assets south of Cherry lane bringing much needed services to the hillside north of Cherry lane as well as connected parks and bikeways benefiting residents of all of Medford and the greater Rogue Valley.

Respectfully submitted by,



Curt Bennett  
4808 Oakleaf Pass Dr  
Medford, Oregon

Former Medford City Councilor