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## **No bucks for the bang; July 4th show imperiled**

The Vancouver Historic Reserve Trust, which has helped bankroll the city's 4th of July fireworks celebration for the past five years, is asking the City of Vancouver to help find solutions to problems in financing the event that costs upward of \$450,000 a year to produce.

**Elson Strahan**, president of the trust, has sent the city manager and city council a five-page letter outlining the problems facing the trust's funding of the annual celebration.

The trust can no longer count on fireworks sales for the basic revenue.

For the past five years **Edward Rinck**, doing business as Bomber Brothers Fireworks, has subsidized the event to the tune of \$250,000 a year. The proliferation of non-celebration fireworks stands along with the decreased number of sales days, has cut into Bomber Brothers sales making the subsidization no longer possible.

The trust has turned to Rinck to provide \$250,000 a year for five years of sales on behalf of the trust.

"Edward Rinck has unquestionably kept the 4th of July at the Reserve alive for our region," Strahan said in his letter to the city. "He has done so at tremendous personal sacrifice."

"We are hopeful that answers can be found to enable the Reserve Trust to produce what still remains as our region's largest and most family-friendly Independence Day celebration. It will not be easy, but it is worth our effort," Strahan concludes.

The cost of this year's celebration in the Vancouver Barracks parade grounds was over \$450,000. The breakdown: fireworks display, \$120,000; permits, port-a-potties, security fencing, state and entertainment, \$170,000; liability insurance, \$25,000; security personnel and other professional services, \$30,000; rental equipment, utilities, printing and advertising, clean-up and gate management, \$75,000.

## **Parks and open space network planning for waterfront project begin this week**

A thirty-member Community Resource Team will begin the first of a series of public meetings Wednesday, Sept. 10, to help plan parks and an open space network for the proposed Columbia Riverfront mixed-use project, reports **Barry Cain**, president of Gramor Development, Inc./Columbia Waterfront LLC, developers of the 28-acre former Boise Cascade Columbia River site.

"Our goal is to work with citizens who represent a diverse range of community interests to weigh in on the elements and features of the project's open space network," says Cain. "We need to hear from the community on how the open space network might be used and how it might connect with the existing parks and trails system."

The first CRT meeting will take place in *The Columbian* building, 415 W. 6th Street, Vancouver, Community Room, beginning at 6: p.m. The public is encouraged to attend. Fifteen minutes will be allocated at the end of each meeting for brief public comments. An open house is scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 5 to present the final parks and open space program.

"It was very important to everyone involved that this CRT be as inclusive as possible and that all voices are at the table," says **Eric Holmes**, Vancouver economic development director. CRT members represent neighborhood associations, the Vancouver/Clark Parks and Recreation advisory board, Identity Clark County, and Leadership Clark County, along with groups interested in the environment, business and economic development, historic preservation, and tourism.

At the series of CRT meetings, Gramor's lead architect, **David Hansen** of Ankrom Moisan Associated Architects, and **Margot Long**, principal with PWL Partnership Landscape Architects Inc., will talk about how the site master plan will restore the city's relationship to the waterfront and reconnect people with their river.

## **Calendar**

The Vancouver City Council, meeting in workshop session at 4:15 p.m. today, will hear a "report card" presentation from Community Choices describing the success of the organization's just concluding five-year

program of providing improvements in community health. The city council will also discuss its transportation plan in the second half of the workshop session. <> The Vancouver City Council meets in regular session at 7 p.m. this evening. <> The Neighborhood Associations Council of Clark County meets at 7 p.m. this evening in the Public Works conference room, 4700 NE 78th Street. <> Clark Public Utilities' commissioners meet at 9 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 9. <> Clark County commissioners meet at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 9. <> C-TRAN board of directors meet at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 9, in administrative offices at 2425 N E 65th Avenue.

### Monday on the air

**Vancouver City Council Workshop (live)—4 p.m. CVTV**

**Vancouver City Council (live)—7 p.m. CVTV**

**Vancouver Code Enforcement Appeal Hearings (8/28)—11 p.m. CVTV**

### Town Tabloids and the Weather

**Francine Raften** wrapping facts into neat package. <> **Paige Jobe** setting aside Legos for school. <> **Elaine Bean** giving Winter Share Fare a promo. <> **John Bryden** claiming one size fits all. <> **Peter Frenzen** looking for trail help. <> **Monday**, sunny and warm, 56-86. **Tuesday**, partly cloudy, 53-79. **Wednesday**, mostly sunny, 57-80.