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the seven City Council members are being targeted for a recall for their support of the project.

Blitzman, who along with other planning commissioners approved Timbercrest, said the cost to the community might be worth the chance the city would be sued by potential developers.

"If these have to be settled in court, so be it," he said.

But most of his fellow planning commissioners, and the six City Council members, say the pain is better than the alternative of disease, inappropriate developments or extensive litigation.

Mayor Larry Lichtman said the controversies over PUD projects are "more a function of parcels that tend to be more problematic. The underlying idea is still a sound one," he said.

Councilman Terry Sever agreed, noting that IRO zoning brought strong opposition in 1989, but has benefited the community.

Planning Commissioner Glen Fleischacker said the PUD ordinances could be tightened up and that if the council made changes to a PUD proposal, that new proposal should be sent back to the planning commission.

But Mayor Pro Tem Joanne Smith, herself a former planning commissioner, said the commission should advise, as it does, on PUDs and let the council then take action without returning it to the commission.

"Let's keep politics out of planning," she said.

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person in the arts. There has been a real flowering of the arts during Jack's tenure.

In fact, Faxon sponsored legislation creating the Michigan Council for the Arts.

Faxon also pushed for legislation to help senior citizens with property tax relief, backed consumer protection legislation for automobile owners and sponsored the state's Clean Indoor Air Act.

But Faxon's greatest influence has probably been in education. A former Detroit school teacher himself, Faxon founded a nonprofit, non-denominational, bilingual school, The International School in Beverly Hills, in 1968. The school now has 90 students.

"He has been one of the most entertaining and articulate spokesmen for education, especially for arts education," said Tom White, director of governmental affairs for the Michigan Association of School Boards.

Faxon, who has an education master's degree from Wayne State University and a master's in his-



Jack Faxon

'He had taught in Detroit. He had a better understanding of education, especially in southeast Michigan, than most people. Many of our state legislators don't understand public education at all. Jack went out on a limb all the time (for education).'

Jack Inch
school board member

tory from the University of Michigan, has used those subjects in a masterful way during his political life.

"He had taught in Detroit," said Jack Inch, who is in his 17th year as a Farmington Board of Education member. "He had a better understanding of educa-

tion, especially in southeast Michigan, than most people. "Many of our state legislators don't understand public education at all. Jack went out on a limb all the time (for education)." Faxon said he fears that lobbyists will become more powerful because of term limits.

"It will always be freshmen legislators," he said. "It takes time to develop and become skilled as a legislator. The electorate can already limit terms."

And skilled he has been.

"Jack was the master of the amendment on budget bills, especially when it came to education," said Observer Lansing reporter Tim Richard.

The state is losing a legislator who understood the body's institutional history, something that will be rare in future sessions.

"He had a personal perspective of what was in the state's Constitution and why it was there," said Richard, who covered the state's constitutional conventions in 1961-62. "What makes him a good legislator is that he has a sense of history. Good people preceded him and good people will follow."

That's the hope, said Abatt.

"I hope that somebody emerges who takes up the cause for the arts," she said. "But he built an awareness of the arts. And I think he'll do some wonderful things."

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