

Brotherton doubts need for land use law

By SHIRLEE IDEN
Oakland County Republicans were right on target when it came to the issues at their executive committee meeting last Thursday night. Land-use legislation and the controversy surrounding it was the subject under scrutiny. The very day of the Republicans' meeting, Michigan House bill 4189 was voted out of committee.

According to executive director Timothy McCarthy of the Oakland Republicans, the committee has instituted a program of bringing in speakers on "hot issues of the day."
More than 80 persons attended the county meeting which was hosted by the Southfield-Lathrup Republican Club in the parks and recreation auditorium in the Civic Center.

Debating the merits and demerits of land-use legislation were Joe Neussendorfer of the Builder's Exchange of Detroit and William Rustin, special assistant to Governor Milliken.

Neussendorfer spoke against land-use legislation and House bill 4189 in particular.

"Wise use of land is best done on a local level," he said. And he emphasized that such legislation would take decision-making out of local hands.

NEUSSENDORFER listed a number of reasons why he opposes land-use legislation. He said he thought it would be bad for business and also bad for home buyers.

"Enacting this legislation means playing with our state constitution," he said. "And I think it would prove bad for the economy of the state and impede progress in attaining needed state facilities."

He said his basic objection is that the land-use bill would take decision making for the local environment away from the local people.

Rustin, who has been an environmental advisor and liaison to the state senate, countered that he and Gov. Milliken both believe in local control in land-use policy.

"The bill the governor is supporting would leave control in local hands," he said.

Rustin listed several kinds of land-use legislation already in effect, such as the Wilderness Act, the Natural Rivers Act and laws which control farm lands and give tax breaks to farmers.

"These are all in effect now," he said. "The legislative report that came out today seeks to coordinate all land-use acts."

He said the act would call for the identification of farm land, mineral land and forest land in every community.

"We've been losing land for agriculture in recent years due to development," he said. "The land-use bill will protect the best lands needed for economic stability and growth."

RUSTIN explained that under the new legislation, each community would be required to identify these lands within their own boundaries.

State Representative Sandy Brotherton (R-Farmington), a member of the committee that reviewed the land-use bill, said he "had some reservations" about it.

Brotherton said his concerns are in "two or three areas."

"First, we have no handle on the cost of setting up the commission that the state would have to set up. Most cities amend land use over several years, but it's just too expensive to redraw new maps each time.

"Another thing is the way it's set up. The legislature has 40 days to disapprove it or it goes into effect immediately and it could get bottled into committee."

Brotherton questioned whether we really need land use legislation "in the sense they're getting into it now."

"Maybe the problem is taking care of itself," he said. "We're in a period of low population growth and energy problems and these things will tend to stop urban sprawl."

Art Elliot of Troy, chairman of the Oakland County Republicans, ran the

Soil samples analyzed

meeting that preceded the land-use debate.
He entertained reports from several committees including the Young Republicans, who reported through Pat Monahan that they will have a semi-formal party at Town and Country in Southfield on May 20 to benefit Common Ground.

MARILYN GOSLING, reporting for the women's clubs, said their membership is increasing. Other reports were heard on the legislature, county government and the state party.

"We're opening this party up as much as we can," Elliot said. "This is not an exclusive club and we don't even care if you voted for the wrong man for president in the last election. If you're a newcomer, you're just as welcome and maybe more."

One newcomer was Kenneth Mitan of Farmington Hills. The 18-year-old Shrine High student said he heard an announcement of this meeting in his class at school and decided to see what it was all about.

Elliot announced that the Young Republicans have made a commitment to give \$5,000 to the Oakland County organization in 1977, and he introduced Steve Hurite, a candidate for the Southfield City Council and Eleanor Blum, candidate for the West Bloomfield School Board, a non-partisan office.

It was stated that Oakland County Republicans will continue to alternate the site of the executive committee meetings and that many cities have requested the chance to host a meeting.

For \$375 Oakland County residents can purchase a soil sample box with instructions for taking a representative sample from their earth. By mailing it back to the Michigan State University Soil Testing Laboratory, they will receive test results and fertilizer recommendations.

The fee includes the box, all instructions necessary, mailing and handling charges, the analysis and recommendations.

Checks are to be made payable to Oakland County Extension Service, 1200 N. Telegraph, North Office Building, Pontiac 48055.

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Outdoor workday for Bond School

Adult students at Bond School will participate in the second annual outdoor workday set for 9:30 a.m., May 4.

A pot luck lunch will follow the two-hour cleanup, in which students expect to clear the school grounds of discarded cans, broken glass and other rubbish.

Shrubs and trees will be pruned and shrub beds will be cleaned out. The first workday last year yielded two truckloads of rubbish, branches and dead shrubs.

Although students do not expect such a large amount of refuse this year, it is certain results of the workday will be noticeable.

Adult students at Bond School are finishing requirements for high school diplomas. Students range in age from 18 to 39 and come from a wide variety of backgrounds.

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