

Sharon Barker

From: Kenneth Henderson [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 23, 2022 3:22 PM
To: Planning Department
Cc: Erin Reynolds
Subject: Quince St Wyndham Project

To: Wendy Farley Campbell
Florence Planning Commissioners

RE: Quince Street Wyndham Project

Greetings All, My name is Ken Henderson and I am a member of the Florence Urban Renewal Agency, the body which has submitted Subject Project for your review today.

Having spent six years on the Dunes City Planning Commission, I have an appreciation for the work that you do, and for the incredible time commitment it requires of you. During five of those years I also served on the board of Florence Performing Arts ~ known most recently as SEACoast Entertainment Association. As a review, SEA imported and produced domestic and world-class musical ensembles for the benefit of Regional and Coastal OR audiences, performed at the Florence Events Center on 7 or 8 occasions each year. Traditionally SEA was the largest single dollar revenue producing tenant of the FEC per season.

My purpose of writing today is to express how for so many reasons, the Wyndham Hotel would be a logical extension of the FEC. From a lodging standpoint, When SEA hosted small musical groups generous innkeepers like the River House provided accommodations. But performances by larger groups ~ the Eugene Symphony, Vienna Boys Choir, Glenn Miller Orchestra, Ballet Fantastique, Chamber Orchestra Kremlin, OSU Concert Choir and Newport Symphony could have benefitted greatly from an adjacent hotel for overnight stays and musical instrument safekeeping.

A sensibly priced hotel would be attractive to commercial and civic organizations for conventions, job fairs, sales training, corporate training and team building, and a wide variety of other uses. The FEC just across the parking lot can accommodate any combination of meeting room requirements, plus it has a large commercial kitchen which could provide specialized remoted food/beverage service to the hotel as well!

In time the new hotel facility as an adjunct to the FEC will encourage development of an expanded Quince St Neighborhood, containing a variety of interesting uses. The Covid experience definitely took a toll on the FEC thru several years of forced disuse. A new hotel is the logical next cornerstone step, I feel!

Thanks for your consideration,

Ken Henderson