

Feb 2/88

TC

2495 Arbutus

Saanich aldermen see centre plans for Goward property

By Bill Smith

Times-Colonist staff

Plans for an adult activity centre on the municipally-owned Goward House property in Cadboro Bay were unveiled at Monday night's Saanich council meeting.

The multi-use centre envisaged by the Cadboro Bay Residents' Association will provide drop-in social facilities for senior citizens as well as cultural, educational and arts programs catering to all ages, with land surrounding the Arbutus Road house developed as a park garden.

Sub-committees of the association developed the proposals after the Bishop Cridge Centre for the Family told council last year it wanted to renovate the heritage house for use as a day-care centre.

The Bishop Cridge group also planned to build 15 townhouse units for senior citizens and low-income groups on the land.

The society's plan is still being developed.

The proposal was one of several received by council for the property,

acquired by Saanich for \$127,000 in 1973.

Cadboro Bay residents were cool to the idea and came up with the activity centre idea.

The house should be operated by a non-profit society for seniors, said Alan Roper, chairman of an association committee studying activities and use of the building.

Roper said the activity centre would be an asset for the vigorous and talented population of seniors in the area who are seeking active, constructive and creative outlets.

Task force chairman Kennedy Smyth said the Goward House is in "generally good condition."

He said preliminary estimates suggest it would cost \$110,000 to provide a ready-to-occupy building.

David Williams told council no funding was being sought by the group.

"We believe we can meet our objective of being financially independent," he told smiling aldermen.

Williams said the group will attempt to obtain money through grants and fund-raising projects.