



Posted: Wednesday, 16 December 2009 5:39AM

PORT GETS RED LION UPDATE

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The Port of Astoria will repair the old Thunderbird/Seafare building that's part of the Red Lion property, but separate to the motel itself. Commissioner Floyd Holcom asks if the Red Lion will then move forward with renovating the motel, but Red Lion representative Patricia Striker says the motel's own repairs "are still being evaluated." The Red Lion "suspended operations" indefinitely recently following the incident when guests fell into the river when a balcony at the motel gave way. But the Red Lion's manager had said earlier there's a concern that a collapse of the restaurant would damage offices at the motel. Executive director Jack Crider briefs the port commission on a structural engineer's report for the restaurant building, which he says is a separate issue to needed repairs at the motel. The restaurant building structurally needs work at the front of the building to bolster the windows with nine sets of posting beams. Once the city issues the permit, the work can begin. A shed would also be removed. Just recently, the port had considered demolishing the restaurant building and create an open deck instead.

No date announced by Red Lion staff to repair the motel itself once the Port repairs the restaurant building. And no word as to whether the restaurant building would reopen as a breakfast restaurant/coffee shop or bar as mentioned by executive director Crider. A conference room, as suggested by port commissioner Floyd Holcom, is also possible. However, commissioner Larry Pfund says the port doesn't want to compete with the nearby Red Building as a conference center.