

Community to celebrate 'triumph of hope over adversity'

BY MARK VIETH/EDITOR

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LAHAINA – Tonight, the community is invited to celebrate a milestone: approval of the proposed West Maui Hospital and Medical Center.

The free celebration will be held March 26 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the West Maui Senior Center, 788 Pauoa St.

Developer Brian Hoyle of Newport Hospital Corp. and Joseph Pluta of the West Maui Improvement Foundation (WMIF) will speak at the event, which will feature entertainment by Na Himeni and special guests and a feast prepared by Outback Steakhouse, Lahaina.

Hospital supporters are celebrating the medical center's latest and most crucial approval: a Certificate of Need from the State Health Planning and Development Agency (SHPDA) on March 13.

Pluta said residents played an important role in the exhaustive SHPDA process.

"The West Maui community is awesome! Literally thousands of supporters from the community donated funds and sent in letters of support to SHPDA Administrator Ronald Terry to approve the CON," Pluta said Sunday.

"As president of WMIF, I was full of joy! It is a triumph of hope over adversity, where the seemingly impossible has been made possible."

Hoyle said the community effort paved the way for the medical center, and he brought it across the finish line.

The \$45,750,000 center is planned near Lahaina Civic Center on a nearly 15-acre tract donated by Kaanapali Land Management Corp. (KLMC).

Plans call for a 25-bed Critical Access Hospital, 40-bed skilled nursing facility, 40-bed assisted living facility and 30,000-square-foot medical office clinic.

The project would establish a 24-hour emergency room and community hospital on the West Side – a remote region with a population of 70,000 residents and visitors.

In the most critical cases, such as victims of heart attacks and strokes, patients could be stabilized at the Lahaina medical center before being transferred to Maui Memorial Medical Center or another full-service hospital.

If future steps are fulfilled on schedule, construction will begin in June 2010, staff will be hired in March 2011 and the grand opening for the West Maui Hospital and Medical Center will be held in March 2012.

Moving forward, Kaanapali Land Management Corp. and WMIF must sign off and record the

“Unilateral Conditions Agreement” adopted by the County Council’s Land Use Committee, so the panel can forward its approval to the full council for a single and final hearing on clearing the zoning change.

West Maui Improvement Foundation, KLMC and Newport Hospital Corp. (NHC) must sign off on the development agreement to record the land transfer to NHC, so it can secure financing commitments for the West Maui Hospital.

There are remaining obligations and requirements in the planning agreement between WMIF with Munekiyo and Haraga Inc. for integration of a civil engineering agreement with Wilson Okamoto Corp. for the hospital’s water system, interior roadways, drainage system, and electrical, telephone and cable systems.

A lead architect must be selected to design the campus and work with NHC and the existing team of local architects.

Hoyle said he hopes to secure zoning for the hospital from the county within the next two months.

Newport Hospital Corp. will then simultaneously begin architectural, engineering and construction contracts to initiate design of on- and off-site improvements for the medical center.

WMIF seeks donations to complete its administrative tasks.

“Brian Hoyle, as the developer of the hospital, is not seeking any funds from the community to build the hospital and medical center, as they have the necessary financing. It is the WMIF who is seeking funds to complete the administrative cost obligations it has remaining in its commitments to complete the zoning process. These remaining contractual obligations and the administrative costs associated with their completion are estimated to be approximately \$65,000,” Pluta explained.

“The WMIF is also seeking to raise funds to continue the development of the ongoing funding and administration of the West Maui Hospital and Medical Center Foundation Inc., which was incorporated and initially capitalized by the WMIF. All hospitals require a dedicated community organization which supports its missions and acts as an integral link between the facility and the community in which it operates. Maui Memorial Medical Center has such a foundation for its facility accordingly,” he continued.

“That is the supportive mission and linkage goal of the West Maui Hospital and Medical Center Foundation Inc. Any and all funds which are raised by the WMIF for meeting its remaining transitional obligations with the land dedication to the hospital developer, Brian Hoyle, will be transferred to the WMHMCF for its ongoing supporting role and community synergy.”

Donations for the West Maui Hospital and Medical Center may be sent to the West Maui Improvement Foundation, P.O. Box 158, Lahaina, HI 96767. WMIF is a 501 (c)(3) Public Charity.

For more information, call 661-7990 or visit www.WestMauiHospital.org.