

Local

City Planning Commission holds hearing for bandstand, Leo Adler Parkway extension project

By Gina K. Swartz

Gina@TheBakerCountyPress.com

The Baker City Planning Commission met Wednesday February 18, 2015 holding a public hearing to consider issuance of two separate conditional use permits.

The first requested permit, CU-15-004 in reference to the Bandstand in Geiser Pollman Park.

The second, CU-15-005, is being requested from Baker City for the development of a trailhead including landscaping, parking, bicycle parking and a trailhead kiosk as part of a Leo Adler Memorial Parkway Expansion Project.

The Planning Commission first heard about the bandstand.

David Hunsaker wishes to construct a 1,200-foot bandstand in Geiser Pollman park to be used as performance space.

Kelly Howsley-Glover with the Baker County Planning Department gave a brief report to the Commission stating that the bandstand project was not part of an adopted parks plan and is a culmination of fundraising and coordination with Baker City.

"As such the City of Baker City Development code requires parks and open space use, not part of an adopted plan, undergo a conditional use application and review," David Hunsaker said to the Commission on behalf of the Baker City Bandstand Committee through the SIBC, the Soroptomist's International of Baker County, seeking approval of the conditional use permit for construction

of the bandstand. "We've been working on this project for several years and from its inception the City Council has been involved and supportive the entire way.

"The bandstand will be a pavilion that can accommodate a variety of uses not only music but plays, or weddings or reunions," Hunsaker said, also stating that the money for the project has been provided through fundraisers and from the Ford Family Foundation and no public money was being used. There has been a broad support within the community of this project according to Hunsaker.

Questions were raised regarding lighting and maintenance. The City currently manages the park facility. Once the bandstand is completed, operation will be given to the City incorporating whatever rules and regulations currently in place for other park structures such as the gazebo and the Lion's shelter.

Commissioner Rob Ellingson asked, "So then at completion, will the City then be responsible for maintenance?"

Hunsaker responded saying, "Yes, but I will tell you, if indeed we do have some funding left over at the end we will explore with the city how to donate that money under a dedicated fund to last as long as it can to assist the City with that."

Ned Ratterman asked about lighting. "Would the lighting comply with dark sky standards or project outwards across the park?"



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L-R: Planning Director Holly Kerns, Ken Rockwell, Ned Ratterman, Alan Blair - Chair, Rob Ellingson, Brandy Bruce and from the Planning department Kelly Howsley-Glover.

Hunsaker explained, "Ambient lighting will be built into the structure and will not project outward. Used specialty lighting is used during a performance, but the performers would have to bring that themselves and set it up. Power will be available."

Michelle Owen, Public Works Director for Baker City, spoke to the planning commission stating, "The Parks Department is a portion of the Public Works Department. When the bandstand is turned over to the Parks Department, Public Works, it will be managed the same as the others. We won't allow completion of two musical events one to occur, one at the bandstand one at the gazebo, that is part of the reservation process. There will be a reasonable fee added to that. I also wanted to add the City does control the power so we will be able to turn those lights

off. So when it is not in use for a production there wouldn't be power to the facility, they would need to check in with the city in order to get that power turned on."

Commission Chair Alan Blair expressed concern that without lighting perhaps vandalism might be encouraged.

Owen addressed that concern by advising the structure would be very visible in its location and that there is other lighting in the park that would lend itself to the structure, but it can be further researched and added if needed.

Before the Commission voted City Manager Mike Kee commented that he was "amazed that no public funding was being used."

A motion to issue the special permit was passed unanimously by the commission.

Owen again addressed

the Commission, this time in reference to the conditional use permit the City was requesting for the Leo Adler Memorial Parkway Extension Project.

A grant has already been obtained to complete the project, which will include landscaping, a parking lot to include 13 spaces—two of which will be ADA—bicycle parking and a trailhead kiosk. The area in the vicinity of 945 Resort Street is a popular spot for those tubing the river to access the water.

According to Owen numerous complaints from residents in the area have been made as to traffic and parking, thus the reason for the development as an effort to help ease use of the area.

Again the issue of lighting to deter vandalism was brought up and addressed with assurances that there would be plenty of lighting in the area.

According to Owen the Arts Commission will also be utilized in the design of the project with things such as garbage cans and a picnic table. Landowner Ray Illingsworth spoke to the commission in opposition of the entire project. "This is not necessary; it's just a bad deal."

His concern is that there would be no lifeguard on duty in the area and police patrol would not be great enough to deter crime.

The consensus of the commission, while stating they were appreciative of Illingsworth's comments and feelings, was that since the area was already a utilized spot that use would continue regardless. The commission voted unanimously to approve the request before them for the issuance of the conditional use permit and proceed with the improvements to the area.

— OBITUARIES —

Continued from Page 2

Bonnie Entermille

Bonnie completed the 8th grade in the Pendleton, Ore. Adventist Church School. However she graduated here in the Baker church school as she was the only 8th grader in her multi-level school. Bessie Dick, (teacher here) wanted her to have "a nice ceremony with other students."

She attended Gem State Adventist boarding academy in Caldwell, Idaho for several years, but did not graduate due to lack of funding. Bonnie later attended and graduated from Baker Business College. She worked for Smith Brothers Trucking here. She determined to get her GED before her oldest son David graduated Baker High School in 1973. So, with her usual grit and determination, Bonnie was able to meet her goal and hang her certificate on the living room wall.

Don wanted Bonnie to remain in the home as a mother despite her desire to work in the local library. Instead, she became a regular library patron and checked out dozens of books over the years. She channeled her energies into volunteer work. Bonnie was a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Dorcas



Bonnie Entermille

Society (now known as Community Services) for years. She helped dozens of people with needs of clothing, bedding, and a friendly ear.

She inspired three generations to follow her footsteps of providing food to local community in the annual Thanksgiving box program through the church. Without a degree she became an accomplished "social worker". Bonnie was a faithful blood donor for the Red Cross giving at least 93 units (nearly 12 gallons) to the cause. In 2010 her active cancer diagnosis prohibited her from further donations.

She sewed clothes for family and friends, including lots of unique baby outfits; She stitched a label in the back: "Baby Loves by Bonnie." Grandchildren were gifted with homemade quilts tailored to their color preferences. Over the years she baked hundreds of cookies and made many pounds of fudge for relatives and numerous friends. She could outtalk about anyone during a phone conversation.

Hobbies included bird watching, and study of any and all nature. She collected interesting rocks, bird and hornet nests as well for grandchildren to see and enjoy. Years ago, a family friend, Belinda Pilcher, got her started collecting bells. Bonnie accumulated numerous bells of all sizes from all over the world as gifts from family

and friends. She kept up correspondence and visits with numerous friends, including Betty Rayl, Louise Bambrery Watts, and Carol Cawdry all for over 60 years.

All was not perfect however. Don sagely stated, "Your mother is a wonderful woman, but she's no housekeeper." The two only argued over one topic: whose turn to take the garbage can to the street each Thursday night!

July 1, 2005, at the age of 73, Bonnie obtained her first driver's license. Family friend Molly (Tachenko) Whitaker gave her lessons.

She happily drove herself around Baker County for the next seven years. She kept her current license in her wallet and spoke fondly of driving after those few years. Family finally (tactfully) convinced her to surrender her driving privileges October 4, 2013. This was difficult for her to do, but Bonnie was full of common sense and had no desire to injure someone while she was at the wheel.

Her family moved around to various farms as she grew up. She therefore lived in Richland, Hermiston, Pendleton and Baker. Asked why they moved about she replied, "I guess it had to do with the water supply for farming." Although she was raised on homegrown food, Bonnie was a very picky eater with limited vegetables on her favorites list. She loved

all fruits and homemade bread, brown beans and canned her own jams and fruits including ground cherries.

Huckleberry picking was a new adventure when Bonnie married Don. She went annually thereafter for 61 years. She would pick until it was so dark she couldn't see her fingers any longer. "Too tired" to go last summer, family brought home branches laden with berries and she picked one final time.

She also loved tent camping and only gave that up last year as well. Annual family vacations usually lasted two weeks and included visits to out of town relatives and friends. She loved historical markers and would beg Don to stop at each one. He dubbed them her "hysterical markers" and "accidentally" drove past a few in the interest of arriving at their destination in a timely manner.

Bonnie was a lifetime member of the Seventh Day Adventist Church. Her greatest joy was fellowship with members and studying her Bible. She also loved singing hymns.

She was predeceased by all siblings except Marge Walter. Step daughter Alicia Jane Entermille died October 19, 1958 at the age of 10

1/2 as a result of an automobile accident. Husband Don died May 6, 1995.

She is survived by her children, David Entermille and wife Elaine of Pendleton, Or., Donita Culbertson and spouse James of Baker City, Or., and Dennis Entermille also of Baker City. Grandchildren include: John Entermille of Beaverton, Or., Forrest Entermille, Travis Culbertson, Tristin Culbertson and Brandon Culbertson all of Baker City, Larisa Moore and spouse A.J. of Bend, Or., and Rochelle and spouse Mike Shouse of Gresham, Or. Great grandchildren include: Kaela, Zach and Cadence Anderson of Edmonds, Wa., Gavin Errend of Baker and Kahless Shouse of Gresham, Or. She is survived by one sister, Marge Walter, of Pasco, Wa., and numerous nieces and nephews. Her beloved Best Friends rescue dog, Sassy, continues to live with Jim and Donita's Best Friends dog Farley. Sassy will chase balls till she drops in memory of Bonnie.

Those who would like to make a memorial donation in memory of Bonnie may do so to either Best Friends or the Seventh-day Adventist Church (day church) program through Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services, PO Box 543 Halfway, Oregon 97834.

Thelma Gibbs

Haines, 1931-2015

Thelma J. Gibbs 83, a Haines resident and former Baker City resident died Sunday, February 22, 2015 at her home in Haines, OR.

The family will have a gathering at a later date.

Mrs. Gibbs was born June 26, 1931 in Baker City, OR, a daughter of Thomas Andrew & Elizabeth White (Hastie) McMurdo. She received her education in Baker City, Ore.

She married Curtis Gibbs on October 27, 1969 in Emmett, Ida. With her husband they owned and operated Gibbs Wood Products in Baker City, specializing in making survey stakes and other wood products. They worked together for 49 years before the business closed.

Mrs. Gibbs loved to garden, do yard work and can. She was the last one of her family that was living.

She is survived by her son; Mike Morrow, Haines, OR; daughter, Elizabeth Neill, son & daughter-in-law, James & Tonia Ryan; daughter & son-in-law, Laura & David Fuzi, all of Baker City, OR. Several grandchildren and great grandchildren along with numerous nieces and nephews survive.

She was preceded in death by her parents, one sister, three brothers and her husband and a grandson.

Those wishing to make memorial contributions in her memory may direct them to Heart 'N' Home Hospice, this maybe done through the Coles Tribute Center, 1950 Place St. Baker City, OR 97814