

## CREEKSIDE: City works to make park less of a burden for neighbors

Continued from page 1

that a park entrance might be eventually acquired from ODOT and to include it in an updated Transportation Systems Plan

That's a solution that most at Wednesday's meeting seemed enthusiastic about — but it can't happen until land is swapped and ODOT has defined its plans for that area of Highway 20.

"That's where I think you could enter the discussion," Bertagna said. "This is down the road, guys."

An entrance/exit on the highway could also alleviate another traffic problem: the long wait and ensuing traffic backup as long RVs await an opportunity to turn west on Highway 20 to head back over the mountains at the end of a stay.

Parks Board Chair Liam Hughes noted, "The entrance directly onto the highway has a lot of advantages, but I know that may be beyond our control."

That leaves the City and the neighbors to cope with the Locust Street entrance, for now. The entrance/exit there is problematic in part because RV drivers miss it, then head up into the adjoining neighborhoods to turn around. Some of the rigs are huge, and this creates an impact on the neighborhood. RVs also "stage," idling on

the street while drivers enter the campground to secure a space.

Neighbor Gary Kutz, a civil engineer by trade, testified that the entrance should be closed.

"We should access the campground from a commercial street, not a residential street," he said. "Locust is not a good entry for the park, period."

However, Kutz and other neighbors were open to a compromise that would turn Locust Street into an exit-only portal, with signage denoting a right turn only, toward town and Highway 20.

Improving signage all around, with significantly better visibility, is considered an absolute necessity, so that drivers know where they can and can't go.

Park neighbor J.J. Yakovella testified passionately about the impact of the park on the neighborhoods. He noted that traffic in the area is increasing for a variety of reasons — people drive through the neighborhoods to bypass the highway, and new construction is on the books for the neighborhoods and at FivePine.

"Please start looking at the long-term picture here," he said.

Neighbors like Yakovella acknowledge that that the park long pre-dates the neighborhoods that have grown up around it, but they assert that usage has changed, along

with the nature of RV traffic. In recent years, RVs have grown into behemoths.

"These are residential streets and these vehicles are just too huge to keep rumbling through," he said. "What we have is something that is in a bad place."

He says that the park has negatively impacted quality of life — and property values.

**“ These are residential streets and these vehicles are just too huge to keep rumbling through. What we have is something that is in a bad place. — J.J. Yakovella**

"I'd like to move away from this; my neighbors would like to move away from this," he said. "But we're stuck."

The City could limit the size of RVs allowed in the park, but there seems to be little traction on the parks board for creating exclusionary policies.

There is, however, a sense of urgency to address neighbors' concerns effectively and immediately.

Greg Johnson urged that as much work be done as

quickly as possible to alleviate impacts.

"This is an urgent situation, in my mind," he said.

Executive Director of the Sisters Area Chamber of Commerce Judy Trego testified as to the importance of the RV park to the community.

"Lodging options in Sisters have not kept pace with our visitor volume," she noted.

She said she appreciates the City and the neighbors working on mitigation efforts to keep the park viable as a lodging resource for Sisters.

"We really appreciate your patience with our visitors and with our events," she said.

Other issues carry weight with parks board members.

Peggy Hogue noted that the campground has no ADA-compatible sites, and Bertagna agreed that that was an important consideration. Dixie Eckford is adamant that the tent-camping areas of the park be preserved, which the current proposal does.

The parks board directed staff on Wednesday to develop costs and timelines for implementing the preferred changes — including the feasibility of turning Locust Street into an exit-only — and bring them back to the board, which will make its recommendations to the City Council.

## Volunteers will clean up Sisters Country for Earth Day

Volunteers are invited to join SOLVE, Sisters Park & Recreation District (SPRD), Sisters schools, Sisters Trails Alliance and neighbors and friends to remove trash and litter that has accumulated over the winter.

A cleanup event is set for Saturday, April 18, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Volunteers meet at 9 a.m. in the SPRD parking lot to receive garbage bags, gloves, and project assignments.

After a few hours of trash collecting, volunteers will gather at SPRD for an Earth Day "thank-you" party at 1 p.m. Activities include: Litter cleanup; student recycled art project; and coloring projects for kids. Refreshments will be available.

Visit [www.solveoregon.org/volunteer-solve-it-earth-day](http://www.solveoregon.org/volunteer-solve-it-earth-day) for more details and to register for this event. Scroll to "Sisters" and add your name to the list of volunteers.



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NOTICE: You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.

You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center ([www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp)), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site ([www.lawhelpcalifornia.org](http://www.lawhelpcalifornia.org)), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center ([www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp)), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case. (VSD) Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información e continuación.

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Page 1 of 1  
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