

AIRPORT: Runway, state recognition, permits all up for discussion

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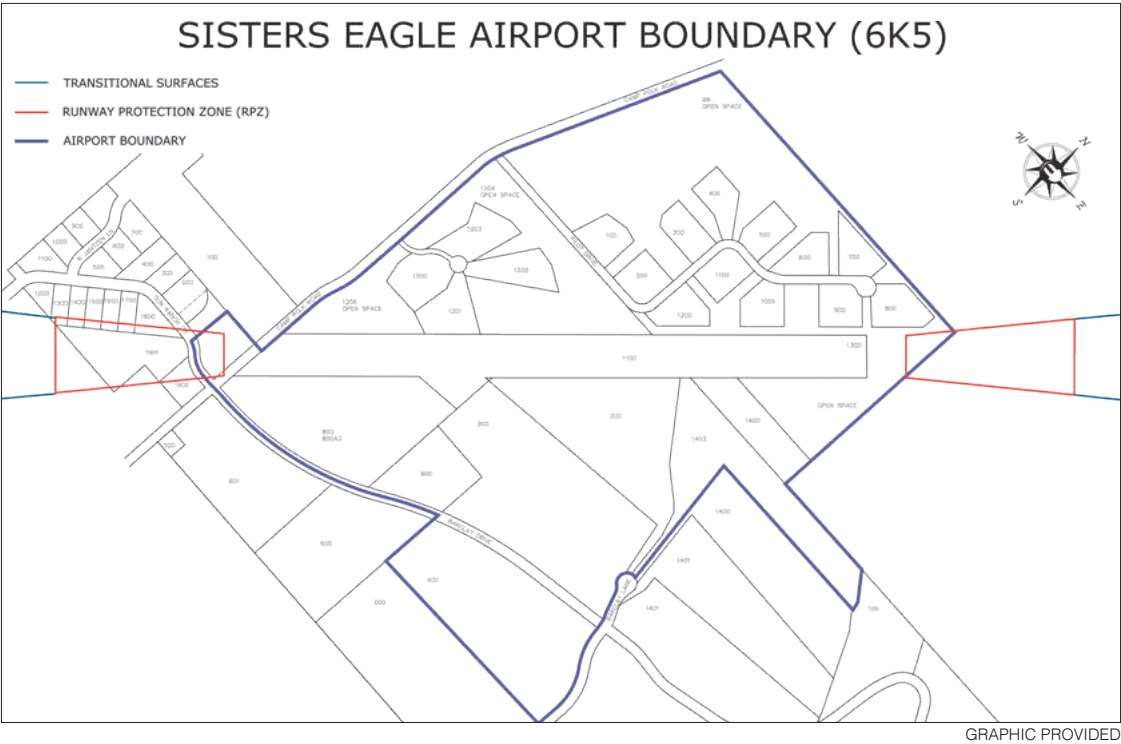
— the first being that it was reportedly done without permits. Additionally, the use is not allowed in the Rural Residential (RR-10) zone and it sits on property not owned by the airport but on the common area owned by the adjacent Eagle Air Estates subdivision.

The memo states that, “the runout causes Eagle Air Estates to violate its condition of approval to have 65 percent of the land be in undeveloped open space.” Also, the runout was built on lands mapped as wetlands.

Russell notes that, “County and City (of Sisters) staff have met with representatives from the Eagle Air Estates Homeowners Association and Sisters Eagle Airport. The groups continue to search for a mutually acceptable solution.”

The commissioners will also discuss a pending request from the airport to be recognized by the state. As reported in the September 7 edition of *The Nugget*, Sisters Eagle Airport has made a request of ODA to be included in the agency’s list of recognized airports. Airport Manager Campbell earlier told *The Nugget* that no formal application had been made and declined further comment.

ODA planner Jeff Caines told *The Nugget* that the materials submitted — “request”



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or “application” or whatever they are being called — had not been reviewed as of last week and remain subject to change. A map circulated in association with this request shows an expansive boundary, which has concerned some local residents.

Their concerns are exacerbated by the fact that, as Russell notes, “For these airports, aviation uses are outright permitted on land within the airport boundary regardless of local land-use regulations. Lands within the airport boundary are lands either owned by the airport or leased for long-term use, or committed to airport use.”

A public hearing will be scheduled in Deschutes County when an application is deemed complete. Assuming that happens, “affected property owners” — those whose property is within 500 feet of an airport boundary, within

an approach corridor, or whose use of their property may be directly affected if the proposed airport is listed — will be given notice of a public hearing. Caines noted that others who are interested can be placed on a notice list by contacting the Oregon Department of Aviation.

Local governments — Deschutes County and the City of Sisters — will have the opportunity to weigh in.

The third topic of discussion at the September 19 work session is the use by skydivers of a landing zone on a lot along Barclay Drive. The skydiving operation based at the airport had also been using a lot on Camp Polk Road, but last month the airport withdrew a conditional use permit

application for that site and ceased using it.

The site on Barclay Drive is zoned to allow recreational activities that require large acreage as a conditional use, according to Russell’s memo.

He noted that “Code Enforcement has opened a case and is attempting to reach a Voluntary Compliance Agreement involving the property owner, Sisters Eagle Airport, and the business.”

The commissioners’ work session is scheduled for Monday, September 19, at 1:30 p.m. in the Allen Room of the Deschutes Services Building, 1300 N.W. Wall St. The Board normally does not accept public testimony at work sessions.

CITY COUNCIL: One councilor will be appointed early

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the three Council positions. He is known in Sisters for his Central Oregon Shows, including the annual Wild West show, as well as his Fall Street Festival and Sisters Art in the Park, all held in Sisters. Besides those in Sisters, Esterman’s shows are held around the state.

City Recorder Kathy Nelson told *The Nugget* that this is the “first time since I’ve been here that we don’t have more candidates than open positions.”

Although there is no question that all three candidates will be elected, the number of votes received by each candidate will determine the length of their term. The top two vote-getters will serve for four years and the third will serve a two-year term.

Due to the resignation of Chris Frye from the Council when he moved out of the city limits, the Council has been functioning with four members. For the remaining three months of this Council’s tenure, one of the two candidates now running (Blum is currently serving) will be appointed to fill Frye’s empty seat until the new Council is seated in January 2017.

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