

Local

Public Arts Commission to address City Council

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Tuesday evening the Public Arts Committee met in Council Chambers at City Hall.

On the agenda for the evening was discussing the vinyl wrap project and the Master Plan.

Present were Brian and Corrine Vegter, Derek Hosler, Mary Miller, Chair Ann Mehaffy and City Staff representative Mike Kee.

As the meeting was preparing to convene Brian Vegter entered the room with a painting. “We are redecorating and thought it would be nice to have this piece as part of the series here,” he said.

The painting is one of several created by local artist Alyssa Peterson depicting children playing at Geiser-Pollman Park.

Three already hang in City Hall.

Brian and Corrine Vegter’s donation will enhance the City Hall collection.

“Wow, thank you,” said Kee followed by Mehaffy saying, “That is fantastic.”

Mehaffy called the meeting to order calling first for an approval of minutes from the last two meetings.

Kee informed the committee he had to amend minutes from the December meeting due to an error.

Several members advised they had not had a chance to read the corrected minutes or the minutes from the January meeting so a quick moment was taken to review those before they all voted in agreement to accept those minutes.

Mehaffy passed around a “Thank You” card for everyone to sign for Natural Structures thanking them for the amenities at the end of the Leo Adler Memorial Pathway “Launch Park.”

Kee picked up on what Mehaffy called the site and said he really liked



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Brian and Corrine Vegter pose with the Alyssa Peterson painting to be donated to the City.

that and would mention it as a name the City could officially use for the site rather than just the “LAMP extension.”

The first item on the agenda was a discussion and update on the Vinyl Wrap project.

Kee read an email he had sent to an Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) employee, following up on samples of the vinyl material the committee is suggesting be used and the response that he received stating this ODOT employee was doing some further research on the product and other products available reaching out to manufacturers with questions and concerns and would be back in touch by the end of February or early March.

Mehaffy said that since they were waiting on ODOT there wasn’t much more to discuss or move forward with at this time.

It was suggested that perhaps a call to artist was needed to get an idea of artwork that could be used however no actual locations have been determined for the wraps therefore actual dimensions for artwork was not known.

The committee also addressed that money would be needed either by way of budget, fundraising or solicitation of local service organizations such as Kiwanas, Soroptimists or Lions for sponsorship. Without the committee predetermining what the pay for artwork would be coupled with the dimensions of boxes wanting to be wrapped those were obstacles seeking funding the project.

Kee suggested the Committee make a presentation to the City Council to garner their support for the project as a way to help secure funding as well.

It was agreed that at an upcoming City Council meeting, tentatively the March 8 meeting, the committee would put together a presentation, including the idea of the public art loan by local artist.

By putting together a presentation it would also give the committee an opportunity to discuss payment to the artists for vinyl wrap art as well as secure the locations most important to them.

They committee then turned its attention to the Master Plan that is being

developed.

Julie Smith, Management Assistant and IT Coordinator for Baker City has put together a draft plan for the committee to look at that was as several members of the committee said, “Very impressive.”

The committee briefly went over the plan and agreed to each take it home with them and submit ideas or changes to Kee who would pass the information onto Smith who could revise the plan until it was how the committee envisioned.

It was also mentioned that City Council be advised of the Master Plan being developed so they are aware that approval of this plan will be coming before them in the near future and that in efforts to “sell” them on the vinyl wrap and art on loan projects they can see the committee has vision.

The Public Arts Commission meets at City Hall in Council Chambers the first Tuesday of every month at 5:30 p.m.

All Baker City citizens are invited and encouraged to attend these public meetings.

Winery

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She asked if there were any challenges to the jurisdiction of the Commission to hear the matter, and none were stated. She asked if there were any conflicts of interest, or biases to be claimed by any Commission member, and Hoopes stated that her name was throughout the original 2007 application, but she didn’t think there would be any issues. Trindle also said that she is Executive Director of the Eastern Oregon Visitors Association, but that she didn’t feel that would cause any conflicts.

Quam, using the Smart Board, displayed, and explained details regarding the application, the parcel location which is described as around 235 acres, Tax Lot 2400 in Township 8 South, Range 4 East, W.M., Baker County, OR (Ref. 7557). The address is stated as 45714 Cook Road, northeast of Baker City, in the Keating Valley area.

According to documentation, “The applicants cur-

rently operate an existing vineyard and processing facility less than three miles north of the proposed site, which will be closed due to the terms of the leasing agreement. The proposed location is currently used as rangeland for cattle, and as the site of a mobile dwelling, and hay storage. The vineyard will replace a portion of the land used for cattle grazing. The size of the vineyard in the new location has yet to be determined, but will be less than 15 acres. The vineyard will increase the annual yield to 5,000 cases of wine (which will total close to 12,000 gallons).

“Keating Valley Vineyard Service, LLC provides several acres of vines for the property owners in Richland, OR. These vines will be managed by Keating Valley Vineyard Service, LLC, and the grapes will be processed at the new facility. The eventual goal of the wine processing facility is to use a blend of grapes they grow in Richland, OR, and form their estate vineyards. The processing facility and tasting room will be sited in place of the mobile dwelling, and will be no

larger than 10,000 sq. ft.”

The Cooks, who are the applicants, and property owners, and Brown, Senior Ecologist with Farallon Consulting, discussed details of the request with the Commission. Brown referenced court cases, and legislation to explain that this type of operation is an accepted Farm Use practice.

The applicants discussed the issue of vehicle traffic, which is a consideration regarding the application, but they explained that it would be rare to see over 50 vehicles a day.

There was discussion, and confusion regarding the issue of Exclusive Farm Use (EFU) zones, and whether the application clearly stated that, and commercial activity in conjunction with EFU.

Discussion also included how many people the facility could accommodate, and the applicants explained that the garage door, similar to the one in Barley’s Taphouse in Baker City, could be opened to allow more room for guests. An estimate of Mike’s was possibly up to 100 individuals.

Mike said there would be some sort of signage,

and Cathy said the hours of operation should generally be 12-8 p.m. When asked by Joseph about the possibility of producing 1,000 gallons of wine per acre, Mike said that actually, the production would be 1,000 gallons of juice.

Two attendees testified in favor of the application, Miller, and Bradford. Miller said that more diverse agriculture would be great for Baker County, and that he didn’t see any issues with vehicle traffic, or other effects. Bradford echoed that she didn’t see any issues with the proposal.

With a motion from Joseph, and a second from Hoopes, the application was unanimously approved, with some changes to language in the Conditions Of Approval.

The following paragraph denotes changes in parentheses: “The processing facility shall not exceed 10,000 sq. ft. Within the first five years after the conditional use application is approved, 25% of the grapes processed must come from onsite (changed to “the owner’s farm”), and six acres (changed to “three acres”) of grapes must be planted.”

Nominations open for Peggi Timm award

If you are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization within Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative’s (OTEC) 4-county service territory, it is time to bring your dedicated female volunteers into the Eastern Oregon limelight and send in your nominations for the 2016 Peggi Timm Civic Leadership Award.

The Legacy

Long time eastern Oregon resident, Peggi Timm, was the driving force behind the creation of OTEC, serving as the first President of its Board of Directors. Peggi served numerous roles on the Board and in the greater electric cooperative community, receiving the Northwest Public Power Association Award for Outstanding Public Service in 2009, and won the White Rose Award from the Oregon March of Dimes for women who have made a significant impact on their communities.

Peggi was named “Baker Woman of the Year” three times and served as Baker County Treasurer and as a City Councillor. The former President of the Oregon Trail Regional Museum, she was appointed by the US Department of the Interior to the National Advisory Board for the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center. Peggi Timm passed away in 2013.

The Award

The 2016 Peggi Timm Civic Leadership Award will be awarded to a woman residing in OTEC’s service territory who most exemplifies Peggi’s ceaseless spirit of volunteerism. Emphasis will be placed upon recognizing individuals who have led in the creation, revitalization, and success of local organizations and institutions.

OTEC will contribute \$25,000 to a qualified 501(c)(3) non-profit organization chosen by the recipient. The beneficiary must be based within the four counties of OTEC’s service territory (Baker, Grant, Harney and Union). The award will be funded through OTEC’s unclaimed capital credit account.

The Process

Nomination forms are available online at www.otecc.com in the “Community” tab and should be submitted to OTEC’s Manager of Public Relations and Government Affairs Lara Petitclerc-Stokes by 5 p.m., Wednesday, April 1, 2016. Nominations may be made by an individual or group who wishes to acknowledge the work of the nominee or by the nominee themselves. Selection of the recipient will be made by the OTEC Board of Directors at the April Board Meeting.

This year’s award winner will be announced at the OTEC 2016 Annual Meeting, taking place on Saturday, April 30 at the Baker County Events Center (2600 East Street, Baker City, OR).

Lions Club collecting glasses, hearing aids

Eye glasses and hearing aids can change people’s lives. Used ones are too valuable to throw away, but not of much use when your vision or hearing needs change. The Baker City Lions Club collects used glasses and hearing aids so they can be distributed to people who need them. Prescription glasses, reading glasses and sun glasses are all accepted.

The local club is asking anyone with unused glasses or hearing aids to place them in the bright yellow containers marked with the purple Lions Club logo at the following locations:

Baker Vision Clinic, Ryder Brothers, TEC Copier Systems, St. Luke’s EOMA Clinic, St. Alphonsus Medical Center, Meadowbrook, Settlers Park, Eagle Optical, Elks Club, Baker City Hall, Community Bank, Sunridge, OTEC, and the Dist. 5J Schools and District Office. Lions members will pick up donated items from these sites by February 22. With increased public awareness of the project, the Lions hope to collect over 1,000 pairs of glasses this year.

The club also accepts cash donations to help local residents with vision or hearing needs and conducts vision screenings in local schools.

Trucker dies chaining up near North Powder

On January 31, 2016 at 8:30 a.m. a fatal crash occurred on I-84 Westbound near milepost (MP) 281 near North Powder.

The preliminary investigation indicated Mr. Igor S. Nikolaychuk, age 50, and from Vancouver, Washington was outside his semi-tractor/trailer in the process of chaining up near the left rear axle of the trailer. Ms. Mckenna Hamilton, age 21, from Star, Idaho was operating a 2007 Cadillac westbound when the vehicle began to slide sideways on the highway.

The driver’s side front bumper struck Mr. Nikolaychuk, pushed him underneath the trailer, and he was pronounced deceased at the scene.

At the time of the crash, the roads were icy and it was foggy. The visibility had been reduced to <1/4 of a mile due to the fog. Ms. Hamilton was wearing her safety belt and the driver’s side air bag deployed. The highway was reduced to one lane but remained open for travel. OSP was assisted by ODOT, Union County Sheriff’s Office, Baker County Sheriff’s Office, and North Powder Rural Fire.