

Academy to share building with existing businesses

Academy from Page 1A

May 6 — would operate in the space for two to three years or longer. Meanwhile, the city hopes to build a permanent school building, along with other essential facilities, at the presently undeveloped 58-acre South Wind site, south of town and east of U.S. Highway 101.

“We’ve been working on trying to find a location for quite some time,” Ryan Hull, president of the academy’s board of directors, said. “We believe we’ve found one that will temporarily work very well for us until the South Wind project becomes available in the future.”

He added that the school aims to open in September 2016, though he said he doesn’t know when, or if, the school board will approve the academy’s charter proposal.

Commissioners Charles Bennett, Joe Bernt, Lisa Kerr, Janet Patrick and Chair Bob Lundy voted to approve the permit. Commissioner Ryan Dewey, who has donated money to the academy’s search for a site and whose family is involved with the charter school, recused himself. Commissioner Hank Johnson was absent.

Site plan

The temporary school will have one classroom for kindergartners, one for first graders, one for second and third graders, and one for fourth and fifth graders, according to a site plan presented by David Vonada, of Tolovana Architects.

The school will also have two restrooms, a staff room, some storage space and a 10-foot-by-80-foot vegetated outdoor “play area” that will run along the south side of the building.

Two parking lots — one of 20 spaces, the other of eight spaces — would meet the school’s off-street parking requirements. People will enter the school from the east side, according to the site plan.

Owned by DDAJ Corporation/James Investment Group, the school will not require much new construction, though the entrance will need to be made ADA-accessible, City Planner Mark Barnes said.

Vonada said it is too early to provide an estimate of the total construction costs.

The location lies in the tsunami inundation zone, according to the 2013 map from the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries. However, the 2013 map is informational only and has no regulatory power, Barnes said. And, according to the department’s 1995 map — which is regulatory — the school is *not* in the inundation zone.

Hull said that the property owner has agreed to reserve the space for the academy as long as the academy leaders continue to make progress toward opening the charter school.

“I feel, personally, pretty confident that we can make this happen,” Vonada said. “It’s, I think, really the best

option at this point for the school.”

Grassroots movement

The academy, a nonprofit organization, arose from the Cannon Beach community’s grassroots effort to establish a school in town, after the Seaside School District Board decided to close Cannon Beach Elementary School, partly for financial reasons, in June 2013. The students transferred to Seaside Heights Elementary School the following fall.

Before it submitted its latest charter proposal earlier this month, the academy had submitted a proposal to the school board twice. And twice the school board denied the proposal — first in February 2014 and again in June 2014 — citing, among other issues, the lack of a temporary location and secure start-up funds.

In July 2014, the academy appealed the school board’s decision to the State Board of Education and, upon learning that the state would likely deny the proposal on similar grounds, withdrew its application last fall.

To address the funds problem, the academy set up a restricted bank account at Columbia Bank so that supporters can donate money immediately rather than wait for the charter proposal’s approval at the district or state level.

For the students who plan to leave Seaside Heights to attend the academy, almost 100 percent of the money that would have paid for their education there will follow them to the charter school.

Currently, the academy has 70 letters of intent from parents hoping to enroll their students in the academy, Hull said. “So I believe we have a very strong need in this community to have a school in Cannon Beach,” he said.

The least worst

Until now, though, the academy didn’t have a firm solution to the temporary location problem. The ExploraStore building, the city-owned RV Park and other sites had been named as possibilities.

Tracy Abel, a member of the academy’s marketing committee, told the commission that Cannon Beach will have trouble attracting young families who have children, or who plan to have children, if the city continues not to have an elementary school.

Though Patrick expressed misgivings about the limited parking and Bernt worried that the fenced-in play area may not serve as an adequate playground, the commissioners all agreed that the proposed space is probably the best one the academy could find.

“You’re just not going to find an existing space anywhere — but particularly in Cannon Beach — that is absolutely perfect,” Bennett said.

Lundy said, “It looks like they’ve looked at every other place in town, and this is the least worst.”

“It’s a place, at least, to have a school,” Bernt said.

Cannon Beach philanthropist, business owner Patricia Friedland dies at 81

Conversation flourished at Pat’s Coffee and Tea from ‘70s through ‘90s

By Erick Bengel
Cannon Beach Gazette

Patricia Friedland, a quiet philanthropist who owned Pat’s Coffee and Tea in downtown Cannon Beach for about two decades, died May 30 at an adult family home in Seattle after fighting cancer for two and a half years. Her niece, Betsy Friedland, was with the 81-year-old when she passed.

A Tolovana resident since the mid-1970s, Patricia Friedland bought the coffee shop — a hexagonal hut that once stood in a courtyard on North Hemlock Street — soon after moving to the area.

The business, which also sold tea sets and baskets, was a popular venue for residents to discuss important local issues — “and, of course, gossip,” said Hank Johnson, owner of the Wave Crest Inn.

“It became, for a little slice of Cannon Beach, a great hangout,” former Cannon Beach City Planner Rainmar Bartl said. He added that many of Friedland’s friends came to know her, and each other, by becoming regulars.

“She really did kind of provide a living room for the community,” said Beth Holland, who sold flowers near Friedland’s shop for about 15 years. “Having a central location, and having people coming and going, kept everyone connected.”

Stubborn half-Swede

Friedland often employed young women parttime to look after the shop, teaching them customer service skills and giving them business experience.

“She was a wonderful mentor for all the girls who worked there,” said Betsy Ayres, a Cannon Beach resident whose daughter worked at the coffee shop.

Friedland’s niece was also one of those (very parttime) employees. “To have that responsibility as a 10-year-old — that was big,” Betsy Friedland said.

“We always called it ‘Miss Pat’s Finishing School for Girls and Young Women,’” said Barbara Grant, Bartl’s wife.

Friedland sold the coffee shop in 1998, but the old guard continues to hold klatches at the Lumberyard Rotisserie and Grill.

The group gathered soon after Friedland’s passing. Most drank straight black coffee in honor of Friedland, who, as a stubborn half-Swede, refused to cater to the persnickety cream-and-sugar needs of the growing Starbucks fan base, according to Betsy Friedland.

Philanthropist

Born and raised in Portland, Patricia Friedland graduated from Oregon State College (now Oregon State University) with a degree in recreation in 1956.

After working for the U.S. Army Special Services from 1958 to 1960 in Wurzburg, Germany — where she planned athletic programs for service members — Friedland took care of the mentally ill population at facilities in Oregon and Colorado, according to Emily Nelson, Friedland’s sorority sister and friend of more than 60 years.

From there, Friedland taught leisure studies at Western Washington University in Bellingham, Wash., for several years.

“Pat felt very strongly about college education,” said Celine McEwan, president of the Seaside High School Scholarship committee.

Through the Patricia Friedland Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation,



PHOTO COURTESY OF REX AMOS

Patricia Friedland sits with former Portland Mayor Bud Clark at the Wave Crest Inn in this photo taken September 2013.

Friedland contributed to the Seaside High School Scholarship Fund. She even helped select scholarship recipients.

“She was looking for mental toughness, someone who could take adversity, ’cause life’s not a bed of roses,” McEwan said. “College is not like high school, and she was looking for kids that would make the transition and had goals.”

Friedland was a longtime supporter of the local arts scene, including the North Oregon Coast Symphony and the Cannon Beach Arts Association, said her friends Rex and Diane Amos.

In addition to donating her time and money to local charities, Friedland gave to several area nonprofits, such as the Cannon Beach Library, Camp Kiwanilong, the North Coast Land Conservancy, the KMUN Tillicum Foundation and The Harbor (the domestic and sexual violence resource center for Clatsop County).

Old World charm

Though she had a cur-

mudgeonly streak, Friedland’s friends remember her as generous of spirit. “She was funny. She was very sharp, well read. She didn’t miss anything, even to her dying day,” Betsy Friedland said.

A fan of jigsaw puzzles and international travel, Patricia Friedland had a “sense of serenity about her, this Old World charm — of having a space around her that was peaceful and well put together,” Holland said.

“Pat lived courageously and died courageously,” wrote her friend, the author Ursula Le Guin, who lives parttime in Cannon Beach.

Friedland is survived by her younger brother, Thomas Friedland, and younger sister, Marion Palmateer.

A memorial service is scheduled for July 17 (time to be announced) at the greenhouse owned by Holland and her husband, former Cannon Beach Mayor Mike Morgan, in Haystack Heights. For details, email Betsy Friedland at friedland@gmail.com.

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