

# Boulder Creek gets a look at library plans

By Richard Palmer

After months of planning and two community workshops, Boulder Creek residents were rewarded last Wednesday with a proposed floor plan and a scale model of their new branch library.

The preliminary plans were unveiled during the third in a series of workshops at Boulder Creek Elementary School. About 50 people listened as planner Jeff Oberdorfer and architect Peter Calthorpe reviewed the library plan.

Calthorpe explained that the plan was based on comments and sketches made by residents at the first two workshops. Only a few of the many ideas offered by residents proved unsuitable, he noted.

Calthorpe said he designed the library as "a village of rooms," each with a certain purpose.

As outlined in the plan, the 4,600-square-foot library will be located near the south edge of the site, bordered by West Park Avenue and Upland Drive.

Parking will be behind the building, with a one-way traffic flow so that cars will enter from West Park Avenue and exit through a driveway that leads to Highway 9.

Because the site is fairly steep, Calthorpe said it will be necessary to cut into the hillside to create enough flat area for the building. However, he noted, scooping out the hillside will create a bowl-shaped area which will be set aside for a

small, outdoor amphitheater.

The area in front of the circulation desk is where most of the activity will take place, and it will be a good location for quiet conversation and browsing, Calthorpe said. For quiet studying and reading, a lounge and a reference area have been set apart from noisier areas. Quietest of all will be the individual seats in a series of bay windows along the west side of the building.

A children's room is at one corner of the building, bordered by an outdoor deck and the staff area.

To the right of the entry will be a mud room for removing rain gear, and the entry itself will be large enough to contain small exhibits of art.

A community room for meetings during or after library hours will also be added. The room will be on the north side of the building, adjacent to a long walkway that will provide a covered path to the parking area.

The bulk of the site will remain as a natural, wooded area suitable for strolling and picnicking, Calthorpe said.

Although the floor plan shows the deck with two existing redwoods growing through it, Calthorpe said it may be impossible to save the trees. He said he won't know for sure until the site is surveyed.

The county will soon begin clearing brush from the site so that surveying can start.

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