

Planners okay expansion at BC religious retreat

A religious retreat near Boulder Creek will be able to expand its operation to house 40 guests for a 14-day period in the summertime, according to action taken by the county Planning Commission.

Operators of the Vajrapani Institute at 19950 Kings Creek Road also will be able to build numerous retreat huts in addition to an already-approved meditation hall.

Commissioners unanimously granted an amendment to the retreat's use permit to allow the additional summertime guests and the retreat huts.

The original use permit only allowed 18 temporary guests, three year-round staff members, a staff building and a meditation center to serve both as a dorm and meeting hall, according to Planner John Swift.

With the amendments, retreat operators now will be able to have 18 guests year-round, three full-time staff members, the 40 summertime guests, numerous retreat huts, a dormitory, meditation hall and a number of accessory buildings, Swift said.

While commissioners allowed for the expansion, they didn't go for the full

expansion requested by the retreat operators. Members of the institute wanted to serve 50 retreat guests two or three times a year for two-week periods.

In other commission matters Wednesday, commissioners recommended to supervisors that a rezoning and planned development permit be issued for a 44-unit affordable apartment building for seniors on 17th Avenue just south of Mansfield Street. The vote was 4-0, with Commissioner Ree Burnap abstaining.

Commissioners also recommended that supervisors deny a general plan amendment request to redesignate the Central County Garbage Co. service yard on Chanticleer Avenue from urban low density residential to urban medium density residential, but did recommend a text amendment to the general plan which would allow an interim commercial services / light industry use on the site.

This vote was 4-1, with Chairman Chuck Barr Jr. against. Commissioners Barr, Burnap, Ivan Ebery and Celia Von der Muhll were in attendance, along with Linda Anderson, alternate for Commissioner Mitchell Page.

9/5/82
J. Swift