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Boulder Creek library expected to advance

Libraries 1980-1981

By Laurie Slothower

The Planning Commission is expected to approve a general plan change on three parcels of land in Boulder Creek this Wednesday, including land donated for a future library by a Boulder Creek businessman.

Robert Kuerzel donated the one-acre parcel of land on West Park Drive and Highway 9 on the condition the county figure out some legal use for the 15,000 square foot corner of the lot which will not be used by his library.

While a library is consistent with the land's suburban residential designation Kuerzel wants to put in an office building, which would require a general plan amendment.

The Board of Supervisors requested the plan change for Kuerzel, thus saving him the \$1,000 fee required for amendments.

Planning staff recommended a change from suburban residential to professional and administrative use. Included in the proposal were two other parcels, one owned by Realtor Dan Schwarzbach, the other the site of the Boulder House Restaurant. That land is owned by Bob Slawinski.

The latter two parcels were included because they have existing commercial uses which do not conform to the new general plan, noted the staff report.

Planning commissioners last week indicated they were in favor of the change but took no action because the environmental review period had not expired.

Commissioner Celia Von der Muhll had some concerns about septic problems on the site. The land has a high water table and as such the sewage would have to be hauled away periodically.

She also questioned the inclusion of the other two parcels in the change.

To call the request the "Boulder Creek library change" is a misnomer, said Von der Muhll.

The new library slated for Kuerzel's land will replace the existing 800-square foot branch next to the fire station.

Plans for the new library call for a 4,000 square-foot facility with 28 parking places, shelving space for 20,000 books and three and one-half staff positions.

Construction costs are estimated at \$300,000 which the county has set aside in a special library acquisition fund.

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