

Libraries - 1970-1979

Library site gets initial OK

By Laurie Slothower

A Boulder Creek businessman's offer of a one-acre parcel for a library site was given initial acceptance by the county Board of Supervisors last week.

Supervisors indicated they like the site on West Park Drive—offered free by developer Robert Kuerzel—but said they wanted to investigate septic problems of the property, located just north of downtown Boulder Creek.

The biggest hurdle may be financial, as Boulder Creek is competing with the Live Oak area to get a new library and with the existing libraries for a share of ever-dwindling

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✓ *Library site favored*

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public funds.

Kuerzel, developer of the Bean Creek Estates subdivision, is willing to give the land to the county on the condition it be used solely for a library and that a library be built within three to five years.

Kuerzel was not present at last week's hearing, which also included a discussion of the site of a future Live Oak area library.

The board's recommendation echoes the decision of the city-county Library Board, which last week Monday recommended acceptance of the West Park Drive site.

Kuerzel is hoping to construct a commercial building on the corner of the lot, located on the north side of West Park Drive and Central Avenue.

The current Boulder Creek library, located next to the fire station, is considered too small. The building is owned by the Fire Department, which wants the space back.

The only objections to the Boulder Creek gift came from Ben Lomond resident Alice Earl Wilder, who said

she wanted to know more about "this so-called gift" before the county accepted it.

"I do feel there are a number of things that should be known first," she said, including questions as to its zoning, condition of the land and septic conditions.

Boulder Creek realtor Jim Lee spoke in favor of the site, saying that a library would be such a low-intensity use a septic system would not be a problem.

This year the library budget was cut more than \$100,000 as a result of Prop. 13 and the shortage of state bail-out funds.

Library director Charles Atkins has suggested the money for operating the present system may have to come from the \$230,000 reserve fund which was to be used to build two new libraries.

Supervisors directed County Administrative Officer George Newell to report back in January on possible methods of funding for the library system, including two new libraries.