



Jennifer Orozco

From: Hannah Elliott
Sent: Tuesday, October 8, 2024 1:31 PM
To: Jennifer Orozco
Subject: FW: Sunshine Behavioral Health Facility

From: Lynn <mommylynn@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 8, 2024 11:25 AM
To: Hannah Elliott <Hannah.Elliott@crookcountyor.gov>
Subject: Re: Sunshine Behavioral Health Facility

Yes, Please add my e-mail to the record. Thank you.

On Tuesday, October 8, 2024 at 08:57:10 AM PDT, Hannah Elliott <hannah.elliott@crookcountyor.gov> wrote:

Good morning Lynn,

Thank you for your email. At this point, an appeal has been filed. This means that there will be a "de novo" hearing, which means "like new". This will allow for complete public participation to address relevant issues and make sure all evidence is considered in respect to the applicable criteria. As with any administrative decision made by staff, it does not create precedent or limit relevant considerations on appeal.

Would you like me to include the below email in the record so that the Board can consider it on appeal?

Thank you,

Hannah Elliott

Associate Planner

Crook County Community Development

Office: (541) 447-3211 Ext. 243

300 NE 3rd St, Room 12

Prineville OR, 97754



Department hours:

Monday-Thursday 8-12 & 1-4, Friday 8-12

plan@crookcountyor.gov (planning related)

bld@crookcountyor.gov (building related)

onsite@crookcountyor.gov (septic related)

From: Lynn <mommylynn@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2024 1:32 PM
To: Plan <plan@crookcountyor.gov>
Subject: Sunshine Behavioral Health Facility

Following is a copy of an e-mail I sent to the three Crook County Commissioners. I believe the information should be in your hands as well.

October 6, 2024

Dear Commissioner

I am contacting you as a 23-year resident of Powell Butte to ask you as our community representative to do anything and everything in your power to **STOP THE SUNSHINE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH** facility proposed to occupy the Catholic Church property located at the corner of Alfalfa and Powell Butte Highway. A use only made known to the local (affected) community in the last few days. This property received exemptions as a church property, not as a for-profit medical facility. These exemptions should not automatically remain on the property to allow for such use.

I support the treatment of addicted individuals, while understanding that most patients return to their addictive behavior after treatment. Many people know someone who has been through such treatment and witnessed the heartbreak of their families who have sacrificed much, including outrageously expensive treatment options, just to see their loved one relapse, repeatedly.

This is not the community for this facility. It will not serve the local community and presents many challenges to its residents.

I have reviewed the documentation from the planning commission and believe their findings of approval for this facility to be flawed in many ways. I will touch on a few; however, I am sure you and the other commissioners will receive input on many other issues as well.

The facility representatives have characterized their facility in part as a "community center." Based on my reading of the Oregon Revised Statutes, ORS 215.283(2)(e), quoted below, this facility does not meet the definition of a community center for the following reasons:

--It will not be owned by a governmental or nonprofit community organization—it will be owned by a for-profit corporation.

--It will not be operated primarily by and for the residents of the local rural community—their clients (or patients) will be drawn from anywhere in the world and the costs of their services would be beyond the reach of most of the residents of Crook County. It is a “closed” facility (although not locked or secured) and NOT available to the local community.
--Its stated purpose is to provide medical, mental health, and substance abuse services which is expressly prohibited by this code.

ORS 215.283

Uses permitted in exclusive farm use zones in nonmarginal lands counties . . .

(2)(e)

Community centers owned by a governmental agency or a nonprofit community organization and operated primarily by and for residents of the local rural community. A community center authorized under this paragraph may provide services to veterans, including but not limited to emergency and transitional shelter, preparation and service of meals, vocational and educational counseling and referral to local, state or federal agencies providing medical, mental health, disability income replacement and substance abuse services, only in a facility that is in existence on January 1, 2006. The services may not include direct delivery of medical, mental health, disability income replacement or substance abuse services. (emphasis added)

In addition, while I am not a scientist or expert in the field, I am genuinely concerned about the water and wastewater issues on this property as it affects the farming community and all residents.

Water is a scarce commodity; in a farming community it should be used to support farming and residents. This facility will be servicing up to 150 clients (patients) daily. I believe their water is provided by well(s) as is the water for the surrounding properties and much of the local community. I am concerned that their water usage will negatively impact the community by limiting the water available for farm and residential use—possibly requiring existing residents to drill deeper wells at great expense.

I am concerned about the wastewater/sewage issues that may be involved in servicing over 100 substance abusers. If you think about the chemicals in the bodies of these individuals upon arrival, plus those used at the facility to treat these patients, and the fact that these substances will be released into wastewater which may contaminate ground water and the surrounding wells, how do we know what effect this contamination will have on residents, crops and livestock?

Also, as I reside about four miles from the proposed medical addiction treatment center and pass the location several times a week, I am concerned about my own and my neighbors' safety when addicted individuals and their friends and family are brought into this community in a setting which will be inadequately secured to insure that their patients do not leave the facility and/or to protect the residents of this community from harm which may be caused by addicted criminals leaving their unsecured facility and possibly their criminal friends coming to visit them at the facility. (At the open house held at the location on Thursday, Oct. 3, 2024, the representatives of the proposed facility stated that a high number of their patients have criminal records including theft, DUII, and some may be domestic violence and sexual offenders.) This is a farming and rural residential community where neighbors can be miles away from some homes and with scarce police presence which may take 20-30 minutes to arrive at any given location. This is not a metropolitan area where police protection can often be counted on within minutes.

I am also concerned about the traffic issues—aside from existing traffic the addition of a large number of individuals who may be visited by any number of friends and relatives will definitely exacerbate the traffic issues, and let's face it, if these patients are addicted to alcohol or drugs, there is certainly a higher than normal possibility that those “friends” visiting them may also suffer from such addiction and add their possibly impaired driving abilities to our roads, compromising the safety of our local residents.

Thank you for your concern for our community and taking your time to review my concerns regarding this project.

Sincerely,

Lynn Coleman

14901 SW Hahlen Ave.

Powell Butte, OR 97753

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