

Summit County

Summit County Council gives nod to Snyderville Basin cemetery near Bear Hollow

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The Bear Hollow neighborhood is currently under development. Summit County is working on a site plan for the Snyderville Basin cemetery.

Cemetery organizers have more steps and details to work out with county staff before the location is final.

Bear Hollow residents have expressed concerns about a cemetery proposed near their neighborhood. Others spoke in favor of it at the March 18 county council meeting.

"I'm older than dirt, and I really would like to have a place to lay my bones," resident Suzanne Burkert said.

Burkert told the Summit County Council she's been communicating with the Snyderville Basin Cemetery District about its progress on a site for years.

"Not that we've been working on it and working on it, but I'm not getting any younger," she said. Now she's hopeful about the preferred site.

Despite some "neighbor" concerns, most councilmembers liked the location. They directed county staff to work out details with the cemetery board.

Bear Hollow and other residents were concerned about the location, saying it may not be very peaceful next to state Route 224, and it could detract from community character.



Cemetery board members brought this location to the March 18, 2024, Summit County Council meeting, an overview of what the Snyderville Basin cemetery would look like in the future.

Some, like Alisa Schofield, were concerned about the compound effect of a cemetery and the much maligned Dakota Pacific development.

"It will destroy... habitat, the woodshed and the natural nature and the natural, native nature at the base of the Olympic Peak," she said. "This is really the only bit of open space left on the west side of Highway 224, between Kimball Junction and the Canyons."

But cemetery board members have said the graveyard will be more park-like than traditional gothic cemeteries, with low and unobtrusive markers.

Burkert liked the sound of that, and she encouraged the board to communicate that better. She didn't buy traffic concerns, since interments happen outside of rush hour.



Board members presented this plan for a cemetery site to the working board's meeting. The plan is planning for interment of Bear Hollow residents and is a draft of the final plan.

Higginsville was considering such an expansion three years ago. At the time, multigenerational dairy farmer Mike Brown told KPCW a cemetery is one way to measure a community.

"Snyderville Basin... you never hear about expanding the cemetery over there," Brown said. "But the reason why is because that is a transient community, people move in, live there for a period of their life and move out. I'm not saying all of them, but it's a transient community."

Now, as resident Brent Harmon said March 10, there is a real need for a cemetery on the populous westside. He's looking forward to the day when his neighbors don't have to

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