

July 31, 2016

Keizer City Council
930 Chemawa Road NE
Keizer, OR 97303
Care of Sam Litke
Keizer Senior City Planner

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Linda Minden. I moved into my house on Wiessner Drive in December 1975. One of the reasons that I decided to purchase a house in Keizer was because I loved the rural feel. I had a horse pasture down below me, a wheat field down the street, and the pasture on Verda Lane. I saw the horse pasture go away because houses were being built, and the wheat field disappear because of the parkway, and now the last thing that encouraged me to purchase my house will be going away.

I know that change is inevitable, but I also believe it is important to keep a part of Keizer's history, and the house and pasture on Verda Lane are just that. Just as it was important to save the Old Keizer Schoolhouse, it is also important for the city to save the Verda Lane house. Without it, residents and their children will lose an important piece of history. If a community has no history to look at, then a piece of its identity is lost. There are so few places of historical significance in Keizer, that it would be a tragedy to lose another that could be preserved and opened to the public, just as the Old Keizer Schoolhouse was. If the history is lost, what happens to the sense of community?

Claggett Creek Park is used by a large portion of Keizer's population. It would be nice to be able to extend the park to include the pasture and house located on Verda Lane, so that it could be used and enjoyed by the community. There are other locations that apartments or houses could be built and it would be a sad loss that a potential green space would be used for housing. There are very few areas in Keizer that could become public space, and once one goes there is never a chance to get it back. I encourage you to give the residents of the City of Keizer the opportunity to show you that they would support a tax measure to purchase and maintain that property as a public space of historical significance.

Thank you for your time,

Linda Minden