

Butte resort fails

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Frontiersman reporter

PALMER — It took less than half an hour of discussion Monday night, before the Mat-Su Planning Commission voted 7-0 to recommend against the reclassification of land for the proposed Homestead Resort in the Butte.

Directly afterward, the commission voted unanimously to move forward a resolution from the Butte Community Council to reclassify the 320 acre parcel in question for recreational use, asking the borough's planning staff to come back with recommendations for the highest and best use of the land.

Developer Victor Trygstad indicated after the commission's action that he is still hopeful the project will go forward.

"It was a disappointing setback tonight," he said. Trygstad said he failed to meet a 5 p.m. deadline on Jan. 29 to provide a conceptual plan and financial information because of "private reasons that had nothing to do with the Homestead development."

Trygstad indicated he has conceptual drawings of the proposed resort, but they weren't ready before all needed land acquisitions had been

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made, in time to get to the commission. Prior to the acquisitions, he said going public with the plan might have jeopardized the private land negotiations.

"They acted on procedure, rather than on substance, when a multi-million-dollar community project was at stake," Trygstad said of the commission's vote against the plan.

Trygstad's proposed resort would encompass more than

800 acres in all, but he says the 320 acres of borough-owned land is critical to the project. Included in the plan is a resort lodge, a Jack-Nicklaus-designed 18-hole golf course, and a residential subdivision.

Trygstad attempted to address the commission at the time of the vote, but was ruled out of order by chairman Tim Anderson.

In comments added after the vote on the resort measure, all seven commissioners cited Trygstad's failure to deliver in-

formation about his proposal in a timely manner as the reason they were voting it down.

The \$15-million resort proposal, according to Planning Department official Marcy Martin, could still be reviewed and acted upon later by the assembly, even with a negative recommendation from the planning commission.

Anderson said earlier he thought that was unlikely, and that Trygstad would probably have to begin the process all over if he wanted to keep trying.

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