

City approves light project for bridge, annexes Glenn addition

By Paula Clawson
Enterprise Staff Writer

A project to put lights on the Sacajawea Lagoon bridge got the go-ahead Monday night from the Livingston City Commission.

The proposal is to put 5-foot-tall light poles with 14-inch globe lights in the same 16 places where the bridge originally had lights from 1938 to the 1950. The bridge crosses the lagoon on South Yellowstone Street.

The project will be privately funded, although the city may be asked to contribute to the cost of powering the lights in future years.

Retroart, the name of a private effort to integrate art and historic design into public spaces, is putting the project together. A team of Park High School students will design, construct and install the projects. Other skilled community members, such as artists and metalworkers, might also be involved.

"This will have the city, the schools and the art community working together," said Larry Raffety, who presented the proposal to the City Commission during Monday's regular meeting.

Several audience members asked that the city withhold its approval of the project until design sketches can be presented and the public can comment.

Raffety argued that people are going

to want to see a completed project.

"I think people are going to say, 'Show me,'" Raffety said. "The lights on the bridge will be very noticeable and people will see it and say they like it, or say they don't like it."

The commissioners approved the project, but asked Raffety to keep interested citizens updated on the design as it moves forward. The goal is to have the lights ready for installation by late May.

The bridge lights will be designed in pairs — one of each pair on either side of the bridge — in eight stages. Retroart has already raised most of the money for the first pair of lights. Future pairs will be designed by other high school teams.

The lights are not meant to illuminate the bridge, Raffety said. Each will be a "glow light" with a 60-watt bulb — about as much light as a reading lamp. The lights will also be on dimmer switches, he said.

Glenn Addition annexed

Also, during Monday's City Commission meeting, the Glenn Addition on Carol Lane behind Clark's Crossing was annexed into the city.

None of the residents of the 11 lots spoke against the annexation, although an adjoining lot owner asked the city to

delay its decision until Park County finished updating the zoning regulations for property just outside the city limits.

But Glenn Addition landowner Jerry LaValley said he'd spoken to all the landowners in the affected area and they all seemed to accept the annexation.

The annexation includes three homes that are already on city sewer. All the lots receive city water. The homes with city sewer were put on the sewer system about two years ago after they had septic system failures.

It will cost the average homeowner in the Glenn Addition an additional \$348 a year in city taxes. In addition to the taxes, the houses that do not yet have city sewer service will pay \$380 a year for 15 years to pay for sewer extensions.

Outgoing commissioner

At the end of Monday's meeting, outgoing City Commissioner Frank Horiel thanked his fellow commissioners and the city staff as well as community members.

"It's been eye-opening to see the level of involvement of citizens as volunteers. Without them the city could not work as effectively," Horiel said.

Patricia Grabow won Horiel's Commission seat in the November elections for 2005-2007. Grabow will be sworn in Jan. 3.

Retroart hopes to spark useful public art projects in city

By Paula Clawson
Enterprise Staff Writer

Livingston doesn't look like any place else and shouldn't look like any place else, according to some folks who have developed "retroart," a private effort to create public art.

"There's a growing understanding in the community that downtown Livingston is an incredible asset. But that has nothing to do with it having a historical purity from one particular time," said Larry Raffety, a local architect who was one of the brainstormers to create retroart.

Hillary Johnson, also involved with retroart, described Livingston as a town with "a lot of diversity and a lot of unpredictability," in its design.

The purpose of retroart is to incorporate art, where appropriate, in Livingston's unique places, Raffety said. It plans to pursue goals for community art outlined in the city's Urban Design document.

The effort is not really a group or an organization, but rather a way to bring existing organizations together to accomplish the projects.

"I think in a lot of people's minds they isolate public art as having nothing to do with their day to day life," said Raffety. "Some of the things I've seen (in other communities) are very utilitarian, such as bus stops, bicycle racks and park benches."

The first retroart project will be to put lights on the Sacajawea Lagoon bridge on

South Yellowstone Street.

The low wattage "glow lights" will be designed by a team of Park High School students, including those interested in art and those with manufacturing and metal work abilities. The team can invite local artists, welders and other skilled professionals to assist them in completing the project.

The city of Livingston public works department will help wire the lights using the conduits that remain from when the bridge had lights from 1938 to the mid-1950s.

"The school system is here, the art community is here, the city department is here — we didn't have to create any of that," Raffety said.

The Livingston Center for Art and Culture is involved with retroart because part of the nonprofit organization's mission is to advocate making art accessible to the public, said Johnson, a LCAC board member.

"Retroart dovetails very well with our goals," Johnson said. "We want to share artists' skills and talents with Park County and surrounding counties, and especially want to involve youth."

The lagoon bridge lighting project is the "experiment" to see if retroart can work and be used in the future.

"When the downtown roads and sidewalks are reconstructed, that is going to be a lot of change," Johnson said. "We're (retroart) preparing ourselves to be more experienced for when that comes along."

Newsletter: Lagoon Bridge Lighting Student Work - March 24, 2005



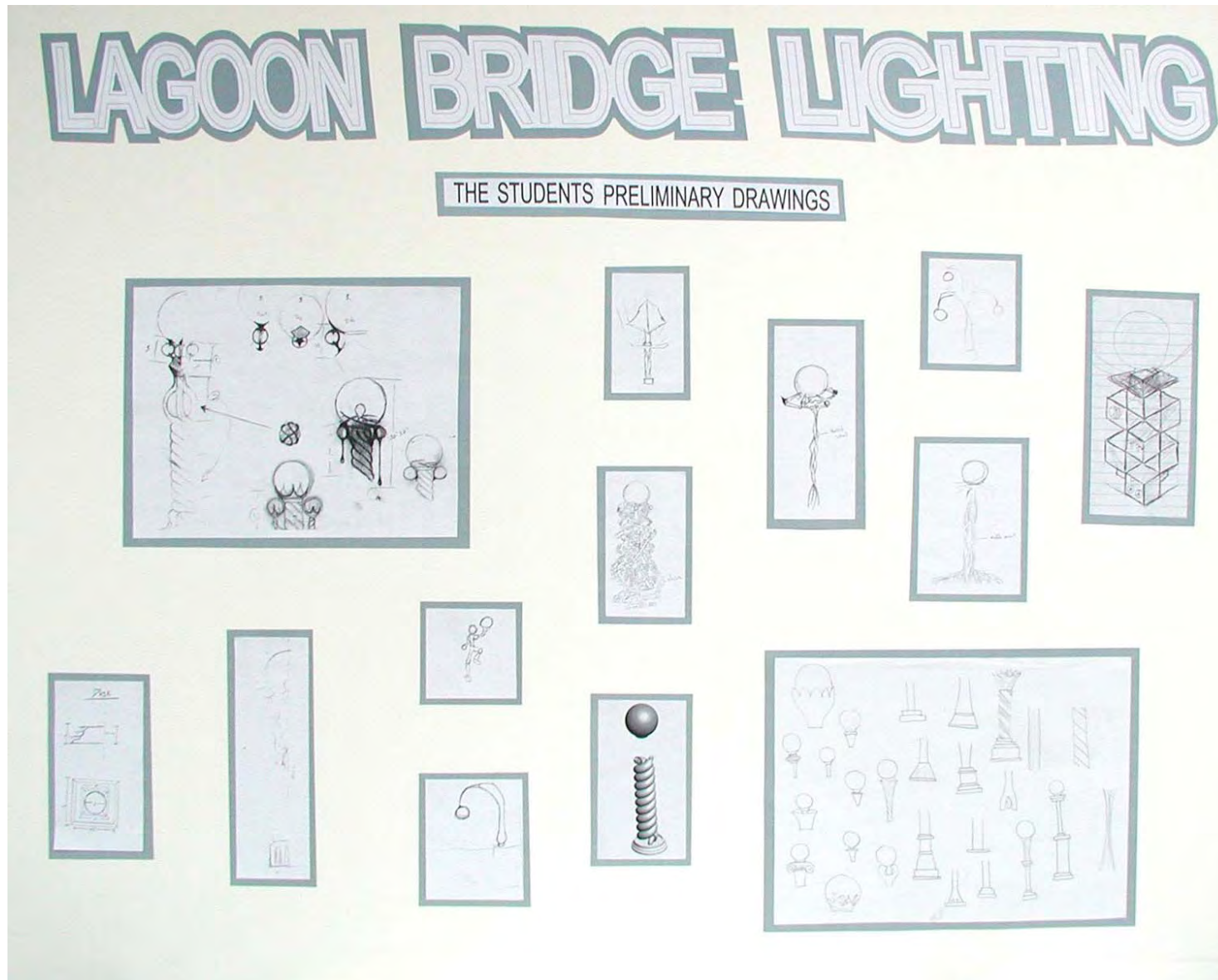
The following pages illustrate student work for the lagoon bridge lighting project. After spring break, the student team will undertake construction of the first two light fixtures for the bridge.

We have funding for rewiring the bridge and a commitment from the City of Livingston to provide new power services. That work should hopefully commence this spring or summer.

Funding for future light fixtures is still needed. Please call us at 406-222-8718 for further information.

Thank you all who have contributed funds and countless hours to this effort.

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display board no. one

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first model



final model

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model construction