

Board Meeting 4/8/24

Board Members: Jim Maul, Suzanne Whitney, Tann Engdahl

Staff: Samantha Zeiner

Guests: Sarah Scott (left after she spoke), Cathy Allen, Susan Setterberg

Note: Lee Knottnerus let me know that she won't be available at 3:30 and may be able to come late.

Call to meeting: 5:05 PM

Sarah Scott read us a letter regarding sports courts going into Abrams park, and her concerns.

"Hi, good afternoon, I've spoken here before several times about nature concerns. It's been a while. I'd like to point out something that will affect the Gee Creek watershed. As we all know, the gee Creek watershed affects the refuge. I'd like to let you know that the city master plan for Abrams park is being conducted. Gee Creek runs through the park.

The city polled its citizens and received the largest number of responses ever on any city survey. 526 people responded. Approximately 93% voted for nature. In fact, Nature, Gee Creek and Trails came out top on each section of the survey. The other approximately 7 percent asked for other things at the park, like playgrounds, water play or sports courts.

The number one on the survey was for nature. I'm letting you know that one of the design plans presented by the city has added well over 8000 square feet of cement or foam and covered surface in Abrams park for sports courts. And removing natural areas and cutting down trees for more parking for those courts, regardless of the fact that only a tiny minority asked for that.

I'm one of those people who enjoys the park almost 24/7.

Adding sports courts creates thousands and thousands of gallons of runoff into the Creek. For example, one inch of rain on a basketball court in a day gives us 3000 gallons of runoff. Also, the noise resulting from some of the sports courts, especially pickleball, has been scientifically shown to annoy human beings dramatically. I'm assuming there is science on its effect on wildlife but I haven't gathered that yet.

I wanted to let you know. I enjoy walking in the refuge, supporting the refuge and volunteering at the refuge. And I like the way the refuge is run with its respect of nature and land and peoples much more than the way the city is run. I wish the city could adopt more of the refuge's practices, thank you for listening. Thank you for supporting nature.

I wanted to inform you that on wed night at the parks board meeting, I will be fighting for the majority of the people who choose nature over sports courts, and there are many alternative locations in the city that the sports courts could go in.

Thank you for your time. Please contact me if I can shed more light on the matter.

Sarah"

The vote at their meeting was in favor of wildlife, and yet they went with a plan to do this project instead. City of Ridgefield Parks Board Meeting - Wednesday Night.

With our growth and progress, we need to create a firm and clear stance about wildlife and habitat off the refuge too, in the surrounding areas, and surrounding parks.

It is so easy to ignore the refuge until it becomes time to tote it being here.

General Statement from the board about protecting this Refuge is needed.

Cathy Allen- Board Doctor Board Development Agenda

- Board Member Position Description and Development Matrix
- Cathy owes us a strategic plan document
- Will send the new PD to Sam, Jim and Suzanne and then they will send to board after edits.

Meeting end: 5:11 PM