

**Item 6B** – Attachment C – Additional Wonderland Lake Public Comment – Feb. 15, 2019

As such, I'd like to place my opinion in the public record to be included with those of the others for further consideration. I DID NOT complete the survey for the reasons I previously stated when I emailed about a month ago. The survey made it seem as if the decisions had already been made and we were supposed to simply approve them with a false choice scenario. I'm glad to hear that the plans are subject to change based on our input. I still believe that the survey needs to be redesigned and reissued after all of these viewpoints are aggregated for further consideration. The survey issued by Kelly is too flawed to be considered as legitimate or responses incorporated into the public record.

The public process wasn't ever actually made clear in a compelling way and I would have preferred to have received something from the City in relation to it at my home well in advance, or via the Neighborhood Liaison (do we even have one for this area in North Boulder). I prefer to read up on these types of things when I have time allotted to do so. I didn't appreciate tables being set up by the parking lot. When I go to Wonderland Lake, I don't want to engage people, that's why I go to Wonderland Lake. I go to find solitude, to walk, to connect with nature rather than have another demand, request, task, or action I need to take in life. I go to take a break from it all, not to have something else to do. On that note, I avoided those areas when there were tables set up as I didn't want to be stopped or engaged for the aforementioned reasons.

- **PROTECT HABITAT:** Minimize habitat encroachment as much as possible;
- **NATURE over PEOPLE:** Prioritize nature and animals over people. People are prioritized in the majority of human-decision making scenarios, arguably too much; prioritize nature and animals instead;
- No fishing pier, please;
  - **USER EXPERIENCE:** From a user experience a pier would defeat the purpose of finding a quiet spot to fish alone. Think about **planting native trees and shrubs** that create cozy nooks and crannies, attract more diverse wildlife and birds, and incorporate stone outcrops that are spaced well apart along the dam that could also make great fish habitat. Restore native species (fish and plants) and eliminate invasive species. Create fishing spaces or sitting spaces so people can fish or sit without having to engage or manage expectations when it comes to other humans. People are generally concerned with their own interests, not the experience of others, animals, or nature - mitigate for that fact and create spaces that encourage the opposite;
    - If plantings and outcrops are not a cost effective solution, leave it as it is now. Those who fish or choose to sit by the water are happy to find a spot in the grass or to pitch a picnic blanket on the peninsula, or to find a perch on a rock on the dam's bank to sit, meditate, or fish. The purpose of fishing is to try and get away from humans to enjoy the birds and wildlife, not to be crowded with other humans on a pier. I don't even care if I catch a fish. It's really just an excuse to sit and see what comes out when the world is quiet and still. I've seen muskrats, myriad birds and waterfowl, bear, bucks, deers and fawns, foxes, coyotes (less common now), huge snakes, raccoon, etc.

- A pier would create **more potential for conflicts between users** (e.g. those that want to use it to photograph/film (grad pics, commercials, etc.) vs. those who want to fish vs. those who want to turn it into an outdoor yoga studio (*which is already on someone's mind*) vs. those who want silence vs. those who want to play and push their friends into the water and pretend like they didn't mean to do so (*hey, kids like to have fun* : ). **Don't concentrate human activity** in a single location, spread it out and attempt to minimize it as much as possible.
  - **QUIET:** Quiet places in urban areas are hard to come by these days and **Wonderland Lake affords an accessible, quiet space to connect with nature**. Have signage that emphasizes that Wonderful Lake and Wildlife Sanctuary is actually a sanctuary for people to connect with wildlife and, therefore, encourages quiet to avoid disturbing wildlife and the people who enjoy the silence.
  - **Encourage people to use the dog park north of Wonderland Lake** and the park that is specifically geared to host large crowds, picnics, and noise given its distance from the homes in the area. **Make Wonderland Lake a silent retreat** and emphasize that there's a bigger park with picnic tables and coverings a stones throw to the north;
- **DOGS:** Enforce the dog leash rule in the Wonderland Lake and Wildlife Sanctuary area. We don't need dogs chasing the wildlife or the birds away. People choose this area because of the safety that comes with an enforced dog leash rule, including several families that I know personally (one whose kid was attacked by a dog). This is particularly important for children and adults who are afraid of dogs. There are few places where people can go without fear of dogs being off leash, especially in Boulder. I have a dog. I put my dog on a leash. I respect not all people like dogs. Make it clear to people in the Wonderland Lake area that they can take their dogs to the dog park or take their dogs to Forest Service land if they want their dog to run around off leash.
  - **Enforce the dog leash rule:** The City doesn't do a great job of enforcing the dog leash rule around the Wonderland Lake area. **Increase patrols, increase the cost of violations** so people actually think twice before allowing their dogs to run around off leash and **reinvest all of those funds into further improving nature** for the sake of nature;
- **NATURE CENTER:** I don't live on the north side of the open space near the area where the parking lot is currently located, but I'm going to point out something that those who do live on that side likely believe is a great idea.
  - **Minimize Parking:** Instead of having the parking lot butt up against their backyards, place the new structures behind their homes and the parking lot on the south side of the buildings to minimize cars and people encroaching on the privacy of those who live right behind that area on the north side of the current city structures.
    - Landscape the back of the buildings well, preferably using some type of native thorn bushes that aren't an eyesore that keep people from going between the buildings and the privacy fences of those who live in the homes on the north side of the current lot.

- In turn, by placing the parking lots on the opposite side of the buildings our neighbors on the opposite side of the open space might be able to preserve the sanctity of their own backyards, avoid having humans throw trash or dog waste over their fences, or do other disrespectful things humans might do.
- **Encourage Public Transportation:** Limit the parking area to the current space. DO NOT expand or increase parking in that area, at all. **Encourage walking, hiking, running, biking** (add a City Bike station, there isn't one in north Boulder as far as I am aware, except at Iris and Broadway). There are bus stops on the West and East sides of Broadway that people can use.
- **Limit the footprint of the buildings** as minimally as possible. Make sure the space is easily accessible and **usable by the public/community groups** for public related events. No private events that financially benefit a specific set of private interests, ever. If it's not public, don't do it. It's publicly funded, and it should always be publicly accessible. Any revenue should be reinvested in Wonderland Lake and Wildlife Sanctuary.
  - (A bathroom makes sense if located on the outside of one of the buildings near the parking lot so that it can be used at hours when the building is closed, and locked at night, as it would be at any other public park in compliance with city ordinances, rules and regs.
- Encourage **environmental education** as the primary activity that takes place in the Nature Center building - not only educating folks about Wonderland Lake and Wildlife Sanctuary but the ecosystems and habitats that make up Boulder County and Colorado as a whole. Emphasize **climate change education**, the city's ambitious goals and the explicit need for humans to act now. The future is grim for the kiddos if we don't start changing human behavior now, even though we're already four to five decades late.
- **NO PICNIC TABLES:** Instead, encourage people to go to the park a quarter of a mile north where the bathrooms and picnic areas already exist in abundance.
  - Do not include picnic tables or covered areas around Wonderland Lake.
  - Keep people moving, or sitting on the ground or a rock. The last thing we need is another place for the folks who are unfortunately in need of the homeless shelter in north Boulder to loiter for the day, especially at the entrance.
    - Instead, think about **engaging the homeless** to participate in park maintenance, thereby providing them with job skills and training. For those that aren't mentally ill, give them opportunities to become nature educators in exchange for meal vouchers or to buy essential food items at other times from local grocery stores. Some of the homeless in north Boulder are fairly consistent (I know, I talk to them and give them soup from Lucky's while eating mine alongside them. Sometimes I even buy a peanut butter cup to share - who doesn't like peanut butter cups : ).
    - This would also, hopefully, discourage homeless folks from loitering around business establishments, like Lucky's Market, and give them something constructive to do. This may provide a more

constructive way for the homeless to be a part of the community too. I'm happy to pay more in taxes to create work/volunteer programs for the homeless. Work = dignity. It increases self-esteem, offers hope to those who feel like there are no pathways and gives them an opportunity to connect and engage with other people in constructive ways.

- Alternatively, engage the NoBo Art District via grants to offer art therapy programs for the community and the non-mentally ill homeless. Bring the community together with the homeless to learn about and understand homelessness. Although I've never been homeless, I grew up poor in West Tulsa, OK and know that more than anything, work and connecting with other healthy, competent people who care is important when it comes to having hope. (I support Boulder's affordable housing solutions too).
- As for **helping the mentally ill**, we need to invest more in providing assistance to those who suffer. The services on Iris and Broadway could be expanded to offer activities appropriate for varying levels of those who suffer mental illness, or drug addiction resulting from mental illness to dissuade them from aimlessly roaming town where they are often isolated and badgered by those who don't have as much compassion.

Once again, thank you for reaching out Aaron and Lisa - and all those in the community who are chiming in directly, or indirectly.