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From: "Betsi Hummer" <betsihammer@yahoo.com>

To: "Council", "parkboard", "Michael Shiosaki" <mshiosaki@bellevuewa.gov>

Sent: Mon, Dec 7, 2020 at 11:03 AM

Subject: Lake Sammamish Park

Hello

I am happy to see that plans are moving forward to have a City of Bellevue Park on the shores of Lake Sammamish.

I learned to swim at Enatai Beach Park; I participated in the County swim team for 10 years. I still enjoy visiting Enatai, and love the Beach as Bellevue has developed it. I grew up near Chism swinging on the rope swing, and participated in Triathlon training at Newcastle Beach Park.

I have recently been swimming at the new Meydenbauer Beach Park. While the hillside looks like a pile of rocks, the number of visitors in all weather is wonderful and the Park's amenities have something for everyone.

I am reminded of former Parks Director Patrick Moran's paraphrased infamous words - "There has never been rousing neighborhood support for any Park changes or development".

Then we look at the success of Robinswood, Lake Hills Greenbelt, Meydenbauer and etc and realize improved Parks improve the Community once they are built.

To best ensure a peaceful Park build, I encourage the City and its Councilmembers and Boardmembers to reach out to the surrounding neighborhoods NOW and get a DIVERSE Citizens Advisory Committee going so everyone is on the same page and supportive of the plan. Talking with the City of Redmond about Idlywood concerns would also be a good starting point.

Going forward with the newest Beach Park, I hope the Council and Parks Board and Department take these observations into consideration:

- Access
- Parking
- Dogs
- Wildlife
- Fishing
- Swimming Lessons

At each of the Beach Parks ACCESS is primarily by PRIVATE CAR. This impacts the surrounding neighborhoods with increased traffic and on street parking (I especially like the ditches in the street right of way near Enatai! Good thing I am a great parker!) Figuring out where people are coming from to visit the park and how to accommodate their traffic flow should be the primary concern of the park planners because it will be the primary issue for the neighbors immediately impacted by the development. Imagine - you are accustomed to a few cars a day coming and going in your neighborhood and it increases to hundreds overnight - chances are you are not going to be happy about it and even less happy if the new traffic impedes access to your home. It sounds like cut

through traffic times 10. Not to mention post COVID commuter traffic! Lake Sammamish Parkway Rush Hour Traffic should be experienced by everyone at least once - it is memorable!

Bicycles - Lake Sammamish Parkway is a great place to ride your bike if you are fearless. Increased traffic will increase bikers' pain or induce greater road rage. or both. Decrease the speed limit on LSP to 30 miles an hour, and monitor it closely. This has the potential to be a great revenue source for the City, and increase safety for all.

OVERFLOW PARKING will affect all neighborhoods surrounding the Park. How will it be addressed should be a major concern. Especially considering the safety of families with their children, float toys, tents and picnic baskets getting out of those cars parked on a sidewalk-less hillside and walking in the bike lane and on the shoulder of the sidewalk-less Lake Sammamish Parkway to join hundreds of others at the beach on the hottest days of the year. when everyone who owns a bike is out riding on Lake Sammamish Parkway... just sayin.

DOGS - everyone brings their dogs to the Parks. Just take a peak at Nextdoor to see the topmost comments. Park users need to be reminded that Bellevue City Code and the Parks Code have regulations concerning pets in public places. All dogs and cats are required to be licensed in the City of Bellevue. I suggest one of those smartphone applications like they have at the Botanical Garden so everyone has access to the regulations (of which few are aware).

Then you have ENFORCEMENT. If COVID is any indication of citizens enforcing their interpretation of the law, I suggest you get on this (implement) immediately at all Parks, and have it fine tuned for Lake Sammamish. Also, all those new multifamily developments have a lot of (unlicensed) dogs that the owners want to walk and introduce to the water. Just saying it is an issue and needs to be addressed in a positive manner.

WILDLIFE. Everybody but me thinks the ducks and geese need to be feed. This is, of course, inhumane to the wildlife, and generates poop that closes the beaches during the hottest days of the summer. The Public needs to be educated, and again, we can probably count on all the COVID Citizens to tactfully handle the enforcement.

NATURE PRESERVES need to be better delineated and explained. At Meydenbauer the Natural Area is a popular dog walking (therefore pooping) spot. Making it a part of the Saturday Sustainability Group, or giving a Friends of the Park some kind of ownership might be helpful to generate public participation.

FISHING. People love to fish at the Beach Parks. I don't know what they catch, but they love to fish. At Meydenbauer people cross on logs to stand on the concrete sewer intake post to fish for Bass. They love to fish! However, I notice fishing line, floats, containers, and etc end up discarded along the piers and banks. I can't imagine this is good for the ducks, geese, herons or crows, not to mention barefoot beachgoers. Again, informing the public, and following up with consequences might be a good idea for the plan.

SWIMMING LESSONS. With drowning a top killer of children, the Beach Parks seem to me a perfect place to offer swim lessons. If Parks can't organize it, perhaps allow a partnership or volunteer organization to teach people (adults need swimming lessons, too) how to blow bubbles, float, propel themselves, and extend aid to people in distress. I taught swimming in June at Seward Beach back in the day, and learned to swim in the Lake before a pool. The sloping beach and gradual drop off is a perfect place to learn to swim, and teach people respect for nature.

I look forward to City Council's discussion of the \$4million expenditure during COVID for the purchase of this park property. I think it will be a fabulous Park for Bellevue and beyond.

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