

**Scott McCormick**

**From:** Leslie Hammaker <leslie.hammaker@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 3, 2024 5:40 PM  
**To:** swandajj@aol.com  
**Cc:** David Lot 18 Kuhn; Deborah Lot 10 DeBow; Dorothy Lot 14 Colwell; Jim & Kristy Lot 23 Zabel; Joan & Bill Lot 15 Cullen; Mary Lot 8 Eldridge; Rick & Lisa Lot 30 Ketchledge; citycouncil@ci.olympia.wa.us; dailym@trpc.org; olympiaparks@ci.olympia.wa.us; Allison Osterberg; psimmons@ci.olympia.wa.us; Scott McCormick; tking@ci.olympia.wa.us; Tye Menser  
**Subject:** Re: Yelm Highway proposed city park and School

Nice letter Jolaine! Thanks

I do not believe I could be so calm while writing a letter about the proposed park and school.

Leslie

On Wed, Jan 3, 2024 at 4:20 PM [swandajj@aol.com](mailto:swandajj@aol.com) <[swandajj@aol.com](mailto:swandajj@aol.com)> wrote:

I am writing in response to the Mitigated Determination of Nonsignificance document that I received from our HOA treasurer. This letter addresses the current design plan for the Yelm Highway Park. If I had not received a copy from our treasurer I would have no knowledge of the changes in the plans. I have been the owner of my home on Devonshire Street in the Hamptons development for over 10 years. I have signed up to receive notifications about the park and still rarely receive information about it. Many other residents in our development also do not receive meeting notices or letters from the city about the park. I have to believe it is intentional, since it happens consistently. Below is a list of how this project started and the current plan.

1. We had an initial meeting with the City of Olympia Park employees in the parking lot at the park location

pre-pandemic. There were pictures of possible plans and discussions about possibilities

The residents of the Hamptons expressed concerns over the access to the park, what the activities might

be, parking plans and many other questions. We were assured/promised there would be no access to the park from our neighborhood. All traffic into and out of the park was to be from Wiggins road not Hampton street or 57th street.

2. Sometime in late 2021 or early 2022 it came to our attention that Olympia School District was going to partner with the City of Olympia to build a high school. Again I was not notified of this development by the city. The plans showed the school was to be located on the Wiggins Road side of the park.

The property is not large enough to accommodate a school and a park. The traffic moves to rapidly on the Yelm Highway, there is a blind corner, and there is not adequate parking for students, teachers and park visitors. Just to name a few of the problems.

We objected to the plans but were still assured/promised there would be no access roads to our development by park visitors or students. The narrow road shown on the plans entering our neighborhood would be for emergency vehicles to enter and exit the fire house to be located at the corner of Hampton street and Yelm Highway. There would be some type of barrier that would be activated by the fire department on this access point.



3. In 2023 we learn that the high school has been relocated over to the Hampton street side of the property. We

were not notified of a meeting that the city had, to discuss this change. When we objected to the

relocation of the school the city tried to tell us it had always been there. This is a total falsehood. We know it and they know it.

My suspicion is that the Indian Summer development (appx. 450 homes) used some of their resident attorneys to write letters convincing the city it would be in their best interest to move the school to our side. I don't believe that my statement is paranoid given the previous behavior of the city and their unwillingness to admit they relocated the school.

4. A month ago we were told that the Olympia School District had backed out of the deal and there would be no high school.

5. We now have another plan brought before us notifying us that the school is back on the plans and in addition

a proposal to build a road or roads out of the park directly into our neighborhood. This is unacceptable, as we have narrow roads. People will cut through our neighborhood to get to Rich road. We noticed a substantial increase in traffic when Chestnut Village was built. Instead of traveling down Yelm Highway and turning on Rich Road to get to their development, they cut through our neighborhood. They avoid one traffic signal that way. When we put our garbage cans out and there is a parked car on the street, people have to stop their car so an oncoming car can get through. The same problem exists when the mailman parks to deliver our mail. We are a small neighborhood of elderly people ranging from 60 - 90 years old. It is not uncommon for us to need emergency vehicles fairly often. I know of two people with heart conditions and some who fall quite often. We also have zero lot lines in this development. If a fire starts in one home it could rapidly spread to others. We need the fire truck to get in our neighborhood rapidly not be stuck a block away because they cannot get to us due to parked cars on our streets. With inadequate parking at the park, we will get cars parked on our streets from overflow at sporting events. People working on their park garden plot will park on 57th street so they do not have to carry their tools as far.

6. It is unfair for the county to send out a letter to a few of the people in this neighborhood on December 22nd and expect a response by January 5th. There are two holidays in that time frame (really 4 days of celebration). We were not even sent a link so we could clearly see the plans. We received blurry and tiny writing on the plans. Not even a magnifying glass could make it legible. One of our board members contacted someone at the city to get a link to the current plan.

I am extremely disappointed and angry in the actions of the City of Olympia in planning this park. They have been totally inadequate in communicating meeting notices and supplying us with accurate honest answers. At best they are incompetent. At worst they skillfully use underhanded tactics to achieve their true goals.

Jolaine Swanda  
Resident of the Hamptons development