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Mar 1, 2024

**Background:**

We are residents of the Indian Summer Golf and Country Club Community. On February 22, 2024, we attended the in-person Open House on the status of the community park.

Based on the information provided at the meeting, the plan sounded reasonable. However, we later walked the park's boundary for context, and have concerns regarding the location of the dog park and impact on wetlands, the Yelm Highway park entrances, noise and light pollution, and other safety/security issues. Below are our main concerns.

**Location of Dog Park and Wetlands Contamination.**

The dog park is adjacent to and partially within the wetlands, and is located within a field of trees. Contamination from fecal and urine materials in this area will have a negative impact on the trees and can contaminate the wetlands. We did not see any steps being taken to prevent fecal and urine contamination of the water table, contaminating the wetland, or protective barriers to be placed around the trunks of the trees to prevent dog urine from prematurely killing the trees.

In addition, the dog park is being located close to residential houses, which are located on the other side of the trees where the dog park and trails are planned. Noise pollution from barking dogs are inevitable, such that a dog park should be located in an area that is farther away from residential houses.

Within the treed and wetlands area, we noticed a number of trees marked with painted white dots. What is the significance of these dots? Are these trees marked for removal? That could cause environmental risks and further erodes the natural barrier that protects the residential houses from dog park noise, such as incessant barking.

**Yelm Highway and Park Entrances.**

The map shows two entrances off Yelm Highway; Wiggins Road (which was explained as the primary) and Hampton Ave. On days of heavy usage (ex: local youth soccer tournaments), the Wiggins Road entrance does not seem sufficient to handle the anticipated traffic.

The intersection of Hampton and Yelm is already dangerous, especially for those trying to make a left turn. There does not appear to be any plans to make this intersection safe? Without a new traffic light or round about, you will be creating a very dangerous traffic situation.

**Noise and light pollution:**

The plan shows that the park will be open from dawn to dusk, which during the summer will mean it opens very early in the morning and closes very late at night. Since the park is so close

to residential housing, without measures to abate noise and lights, the park will be interfering with the adjacent community's right to quiet enjoyment of their property. It will also interfere with the resident's being able to have a full night's sleep.

With regard to dog barking/ dog park noise, where noise studies/ decibel measurements taken inside and outside any neighborhood homes to determine how far a 110 dba simulated dog bark carries and at what distance the decibel level reduces to a 60 dba normal, conversational level? Based on our on-line research, this distance is significantly greater than 200 feet (100 db corresponds to typical distances from dogs in the park of around say 42', at 200 feet it would be close to 88 db, at 650' the level would be down to around 76 db). Further, the dog park setbacks appear to be less than the briefed 200 feet from several Kinsale and Ashworth homes as well as 1-3 Portstewart homes.

At the presentation, there was some discussion of the berms on the park's North and South side. The berms on both sides are not similar in width, which appears to be unfair to the residents on the side with the smaller berm. After walking the park's perimeter, it seems the berms on both sides should be higher than 5 feet and multiple belts of trees planted on each. For the trees to be planted, it is not clear whether the city will be planting seedlings or full-size trees. The city should plant some (if not all) trees at full size, otherwise, the aesthetics and possible contribution to noise and light pollution abatement will not be effective for upwards to 20 years.

### **Safety and Security:**

In general, the city did not present a safety or security plan. This leaves many questions unanswered. Questions related to security must be answered before the park should be allowed to proceed to the building stage. Questions include:

- Who will provide principal law enforcement- the Olympia Police Department or Thurston County Sheriff?
- During the park's hours of operations, will there be staff available to provide oversight of activities?
- At park closure, those parked close to the skate park, bike park, community garden, will exit via Hampton. Are there any provisions for increase the safety and security for residents along Hampton?
- Will there be security cameras throughout the park grounds and parking lots?
- Will there be gates at each entrance and at what time will these gates be secured?
- What provisions have been made for the security of the restrooms?
- What provisions have been made to ensure the park does not become a homeless encampment?
- What provisions have been made to ensure the park stays clean and trash/garbage free? Will trash and garbage be picked-up daily?
- What steps are being taken to prevent unauthorized after-hours usage?

**Summary.**

In conclusion, the placement of the dog park should be relooked at and moved. Or substantial requirements should be put in place to minimize noise to adjacent residents and prevent wetland contamination. Traffic safety should be more closely examined, and noise and light pollution abatement should be required as part of the plan. And finally, a full security plan should be required before this project moves forward.

Thank you.