

29th Street River Access Design
Preliminary Concept Plan Meeting May 7, 2014
Summary of Public Comments

From: Cameron-Sterk, G & A [mailto:geoandaut@gmail.com]

Sent: Friday, May 09, 2014 11:13 AM

To: Ulery, Susan; Sumrall, Jim; Pillus, Jeff; Wolf, Tim; Brookie, Dean; Rec

Subject: Parks belong to the people, we want them back

We are in the process of forming a group of like minded citizens who believe that the parks should be designed and managed primarily for the benefit of the people who live here.

A commercial operation has taken over the park at the 29th St. river access leaving no room for the family outings that used to gather there throughout the summer. The new design plans call for additional access roads, more blacktop, the removal of large shade trees and a lot less green space. It is perfect to accommodate all of the local river users just as it is.

We are interested in getting the commercial operation moved out of the residential area and put the park in compliance with the zoning rules. The perfect area for commercial use exists a short distance downriver. Access is from a light controlled intersection at the high school to an already existing road to the river. Where the road meets the river trail there is a parking area that could accommodate about 20 buses at once. It's a short walk on the trail, over the tracks to the river. A large put in could easily be developed on the river bank on the North side of the river trail bridge. Grading the river bank and a little gravel for the parking area is all that would be required.

This simple solution would be a win-win for everyone:

It would eliminate the traffic congestion and the pollution caused by the rafting buses.

It would allow the rafting companies to deliver as many tourists as they could ever get to the river without disturbing any of the residential neighborhoods.

Most importantly. it would give the park back to the people who live here and pay for it.

From: Sumrall, Jim [mailto:jim@jimsumrall.com]

Sent: Friday, May 09, 2014 2:07 PM

To: Rec

Cc: Cameron-Sterk, G & A; Pillus, Jeff; Ulery, Susan; Wolf, Tim; Brookie, Dean

Subject: Parks Meeting, Friday, Rec Center

To Parks & Recreation:

Unfortunately I can't attend the meeting this afternoon at the Rec Center as I will be out of town, but I want to voice my opinions on some issues that I'm sure will come up and which were raised at the Wednesday meeting at 29th Street Park.

First, I want to commend Parks & Recreation for the design and implementation of the River Trail extension at 29th Street and on to 32nd Street. It looks great and will work great. When the River Trail is completed it will add immensely to this community's ability to enjoy this wonderful asset.

That said, I want you to know that I am totally opposed to any further development at 29th Street; none of the 3 plans that were presented on Wednesday address the many issues that residents of this neighborhood have with any further development of the park at 29th Street.

1) We do not need more parking in the parking lot at 29th Street. Even the most intrusive of the 3 options presented only added about 5 parking spaces to what we have right now. In the scheme of things, 5 parking spaces is nothing. You have taken away more parking places than that on the reworking of E. 3rd Ave., and except at the most busy times in the summer, there are open spaces in the existing parking lot, and plenty of parking on E. 3rd Ave. E. 29th Street, E. 4th Ave., 30th and 31st Streets. As designed, the parking lot expansion would do nothing to alleviate any of the boating congestion because the parking spaces are not large enough to accommodate a car with a trailer. It is used primarily by walkers and bicyclists using the River Trail.

2) Taking down any of the large, mature trees that currently exist in the park would be a travesty. We need more green spaces and trees rather than fewer.

3) This park should be available for the use by private citizens, and the further improvements outlined in the 3 options are primarily to accommodate the commercial boating crowd, the majority of whom are not Durango residents and do not pay taxes in Durango. The commercial boaters aren't footing the bill for the added improvements to make their commercial operations more profitable, but we, the taxpayers in Durango are subsidizing their operations. It is time for these businesses to start paying their fare share of the costs they are imposing on the rest of us.

4) These commercial operations are taking place in a residential neighborhood. No other commercial businesses can operate in residential neighborhoods, and the permits that the City issues to these commercial operations are in violation of Durango's own zoning ordinances.

5) It is not unreasonable for the commercial boaters to use the river, but their operations need to be removed from city parks. A perfectly acceptable and preferable option would be to develop the existing infrastructure around the Fairgrounds on the west side of the river, behind the Rec Center, the Fairgrounds, and the High School to accommodate these commercial operations. The parking exists, lights to control traffic on Main and into the Fairgrounds, Rec Center, and High School already exist, and roads behind the Fairgrounds already exist.

There would be some realignments necessary, and some widening and strengthening of the street surfaces necessary to handle the weight of the commercial buses, but the funds saved from not further developing 29th Street, 33rd Street, and Oxbow Park could be redirected to this project. There is much more to be said on this option, and we are pursuing it through other avenues.

An Option #4 for the further development at 29th Street must be put forward, and that option is no further development beyond what has already be done. If that option were presented, and voted on, you would find it the most popular. You do not have a concensus and you should stop saying you do. The project at 29th Street is done!

Respectfully,

Jim Sumrall

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Jim Sumrall

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From: Wiley, Janet [mailto:janet@jwadurango.com]

Sent: Saturday, May 10, 2014 12:46 PM

To: Rec

Subject: River Access Design Meetings Public comment - Janet Wiley

City of Durango - Staff-

Thank you for your continued efforts!

Sincerely,

Janet Wiley, RA, AIA, LEED AP

Janet Wiley-Architects, P.C.

1309 East Third Avenue #18

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970.946.7633

May 10, 2014

29th River Access Design: Public Comment

I believe this strategy is a combination of Options 1 and 3. Option 1 includes a very clear and common parking arrangement and a drop-off zone which I believe is greatly needed. The location of the bathrooms is good in that being located along the ART, River Trail users will see it and use the facility (rather than the bushes!) However, I like the commercial drop-off in Option 3. By creating the lane more parallel to the river, may reduce trailer backing. I do not feel that it is necessary to provide vehicular access between the two areas.

I feel that a sidewalk/link from the ART to 29th Street going east as shown in Option 3 is important.

Thank you for your consideration of my suggestions.

Sincerely,

Janet Wiley

From: George Sterk [mailto:geoandaut@gmail.com]

Sent: Friday, May 09, 2014 5:47 PM

To: Metz, Cathy

Subject: Re: Parks belong to the people, we want them back

Hi Cathy, The letter you just responded to was written by George.

I attempted to contact you today via phone and did receive a return message. We did not catch one another this time thus this e-mail

This morning at 9:03 a tour bus, possibly from out of state parked in the no parking zone right on the curve on the west side of our house. The driver jumped out leaving the diesel engine running. I called out to him and ask him to move as it is a no parking zone. They toatally blocked any view of cars following behind making it impossible for any car to see around them with out risk.

The red curve paint is entirely worn off.I contacted the city last summer as well as you.Nothing has been done. The guys were out there painting the street lines and told me that the city had a budget as to how much money could be spent on painting. If this is not an urgent area, what is? The buses will

continue to violate this corner if you can not see the red paint. They have a great excuse. They didn't know.

The Greyhound sized bus load of rafters were meeting Mild to Wild Rafting, a van sized vehicle, pulling the rafts. They were already outfitted with their life jackets. I would assume Mild to Wild had them do this in advance. They moved the bus over to the put in, backing in, hanging over the sidewalk. Mild to Wild was down by the river unloading the rafts. The bus sign said Rehoboth Christian. I do not know what state they were from. Driving greyhound sized buses into our residential area for the convenience of Mild to Wild is also unacceptable: again obnoxious fumes

They unloaded a bus load of people and continued running the diesel engine for more than thirty minutes while the rafting company set the rafters up and did his speel. I am severely sensitive to diesel fuel and became nauseous. We had to close the windows. This is totally unacceptable. Please we can not take another summer of this invasion. I would suggest that immediately that a large sign be posted at the put in: PLEASE DO NOT RUN YOUR ENGINE WHILE UNLOADING.

There is more than enough activity in this neighborhood for tubers, kyakers, and individual rafters without more development.

Mind you this is only one bus. At times there are six there at a time spewing diesel fumes.

Yes, I am angry.

Autumn
