

33rd Street River Access

Summary of Public Comments from May 5, 2014 Design

From: Jane Gerstenberger [jane.gerstenberger@gmail.com]

Sent: Monday, May 05, 2014 3:37 PM

To: achristensen@dhmdurango.com

Subject: 33rd Street_Parking Safety_Design 2

Ann Christensen, Principal

DHM Design

City of Durango River Access Design Process

Re: On Street Parking Safety_33rd Boat Launch Design #2

Ann,

It was great meeting you last week! I'd like to schedule a meeting with you to discuss design revisions_ideas for parking at the 33rd Street boat launch.

Afternoons work best for me. Email or give me a call at 759.3146 to pick a time.

As you know, the 33rd Street boat launch was built along the shoulder of East Third Avenue, which functions as a two-way residential street. It's the city's smallest river access site, with just 1/10 of an acre of open space on the south end.

In recent years, unbridled commercial and public use has lead to a decrease in neighborhood quality of life and created significant impacts to the riparian buffer. Oxbow Park was 'pitched' to neighbors living near the 33rd Street Boat Launch as a way to improve safety and minimize traffic and congestion at the 33rd Street Boat Launch.

I believe 33rd Design Option 1 might meet that objective and Design Option 2 will make things significantly worse for both river users and our neighborhood based on the proposed on-street back-out parking spaces.

I'm surprised this is on the Boards. This type of river access parking is know to be unsafe, and encourages folks to unpack cars and gear, and inflate boats in the middle of a city street. Based on the intensity of loading/unloading boats from cartops, your spaces

should be wider and deeper than a typical parking space downtown (See River Access Parking Design Standards, Attached).

The same holds true for the "Loading Stacking Zone," located across the street from the river -- that's another known source of unsafe traffic congestion that could be reduced by have the stacking zone inside the put-in parking turnaround.

And finally, the upper parking area needs to incorporate a hammer head, so cars safely turn around and park off street.

I've attached pictures from past seasons so you can visualize how people actually use the streets, not their dedicated on street parking space, to gear up for river travel.

I look forward to seeing you at tonight's meeting.

Jane Gerstenberger

759.3146

You have been sent 13 pictures.

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

Durango, Colorado 81301

970.946.7633

May 10, 2014

33rd River Access Design: Public Comment

I have provided a proposed sketch which has been scanned and uploaded as a "Public Comment Drawing". I prepared this sketch really with the neighbors in mind. I felt that if we could pull the river activity off of the street and create just a two-way, tree-line street for the neighbors to use, then they may not even notice a river put-in off of their street!

By narrowing the street, decreases the speed, provides no parking and therefore no “staging” or changing clothes and blowing up tubes in the street. All of this activity would be pulled off of the street and be separated by a heavily landscaped median.

In addition, because of the popularity of this river access point, I would suggest increasing the length of the vehicular access and potentially separating the public and private boaters. The overgrown area to the north of the current put-in has been used for urinating, homes for the homeless, and rogue trail development by dog-walkers. This unmanaged trail system leads to private property which in the past has been a trespassing issue. By eliminating this trail, unmanaged, overgrown area, could eliminate the access to the private property and provide more room for the river access staging that currently occurs on the street.

The park-like setting or natural riparian zone can occur south of the commercial access area all the way to the private property on the south project boundary.

Thank you for your consideration of my suggestions.

Sincerely,

Janet Wiley

From: Hargraves, Whitney [mailto:whitneywarner@gmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 2014 5:30 PM

To: Rec

Subject: Re: River Access Design Meeting

On May 13, 2014, at 7:18 PM, Whitney Warner <whitneywarner@gmail.com> wrote:

Good Afternoon:

I hope you are still accepting comments for the River Access Design meetings held last week. First, I would like to thank Parks and Rec and the consultants for all of their hard work.

I live at 3211 E Third Ave. (next to the 33rd Street Put-In) . I believe that all of my neighbors comments were noted at the meetings and that in general we are very pleased with the idea that our put-in could be moving forward soon! We have all come to realize that any design will certainly be an improvement to what we have currently, and I believe the proposed plans, with some tweaks that we all noted are good.

I wanted to reiterate the importance of an extension of the river trail on the west side of the street, ideally removing parking on the west side- taking 8 feet of the street and 4 - 6 feet into the right of way in order to make a green strip, and bike path as occurs now along Memorial Park!

At the corner where the Little Red House is in conflict with any type of encroachment into the right of way, maybe that is an opportunity to create an even narrower roadway to physically slow vehicle traffic. We also believe the decrease road width along the entire street would achieve this as well.

I also wanted to discuss the port-a-potty. Could this be something similar to the "nice" potty trailer that is found at the Durango Discovery Museum? I think something like that could be dressed to fit into the natural environment and would be much more pleasant to use and encourage people to actually use them. You don't know how many times I have seen gentlemen going to the bathroom directly next to the bob's-johns that are at the put in now!

My final comments have to do with the Oxbow site and I feel like this may be the only forum to really get my thoughts heard without someone crucifying me at a meeting. I understand the neighbors of Oxbow's concerns, they don't want what has happened in the past here at 33rd to happen to them. However, I know that the public supported the purchase of Oxbow Park and Preserve because of its magnificent potential as a put-in for tubers and private boaters, in addition to the opportunities to have wildlife viewing, and doing some rehabilitation to the area. I feel like "Option 4" that all of the Oxbow neighbors support does a great disservice to the community of Durango by physically limiting the access to this put-in. We at 33rd understand fully that we now may be a take-out for tubers, but I think to limit the access of private boaters to this put-in does not do the job of alleviating some of the traffic felt at 33rd and instead it could be more congested due to the taking out of tubers and the continued "putting-in" by private boaters. As most/all private boaters have expressed to myself and others, they would row right on by our 33rd access point and continue on down the river, at least helping to make that contingency of river users smaller at 33rd.

Unfortunately we at 33rd know all too well that not having a designed put-in will just lead to headaches, that is probably why we at 33rd were all so very excited to see the designs and move forward with them. I also feel like the neighbors of Oxbow are just a bit "not in my backyard" on this issue, under the guise of preservation. And if Option 4 is what they get then it will feel like the city of Durango and the people of Durango purchased the residents of Oxbow area their own personal park and put-in and that doesn't seem fair.

Thanks again for all of the work you have done and continue to do! Please let me know if I can be of any service to you.

Whitney Warner

301.706.1867

3211 E 3rd Ave

Durango, CO 81301
