



## **TUBBS HILL FOUNDATION RESPONSE TO TEAM McEUEEN PLAN**

**Adopted 13 January 2011**

### **Team McEuen Members:**

The Tubbs Hill Foundation would first like to acknowledge the team's efforts and commend it for the many creative ideas in the conceptual plan. As the re-design of McEuen Field continues, our desire is to work with others involved in this process for the betterment of our community.

With that spirit in mind, we include our mission statement to provide context for our comments.

***MISSION STATEMENT: Tubbs Hill Inc. is a non-profit association dedicated to the preservation of Tubbs Hill City Park as a unique and natural lakeshore forest typical of North Idaho, while providing for compatible public use of this special place. We act as advocates for the park, advise city administration on issues pertaining to the park and support volunteer efforts, fund raising, community relations and other tasks as needed to achieve this goal.***

In light of that statement, we would like to clarify our position on issues that have arisen through our interaction with members of the design team, Park Department staff and other community stakeholders.

As stated, our principal desire is to preserve the beauty of Tubbs Hill in its natural state. While we whole-heartedly support accessibility for all, paving of trails is not consistent with that philosophy, and thus we are opposed to paving of any trails on Tubbs Hill. That view is consistent with the view of members from the disability community who spoke at our December board meeting.

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A Non-Profit Organization

Also, consistent with our desire to preserve Tubbs Hill in its natural state, we believe constructed elements placed on the hill adversely impact the natural scenic state of the hill and would be, therefore, inappropriate. We believe that any changes to McEuen Field that impact Tubbs Hill should be compatible with the natural state of the hill. To that end, we would be opposed to construction of trailheads featuring artificial fountains or streams, other man-made features such as a sledding course on the periphery of the hill, or any structural elements such as a proposed observation platform on the hill. The proposed features are inconsistent with the City's Tubbs Hill Management Plan which states that "Tubbs Hill, a city park, shall be managed to provide for people's use and enjoyment while maintaining the natural setting that provides this outdoor experience."

We sincerely believe that nothing in the McEuen Field re-design should impact the public's ability to enjoy the traditional visual feast Tubbs Hill provides to those who enjoy the new amenities of McEuen Field.

The Tubbs Hill Foundation recognizes that our role is advisory only, and that final decisions regarding the hill are the city's responsibility. We believe, however, that we share a common community vision: Tubbs Hill must be kept in its natural state as a place of beauty shared by our entire community. We extend our willingness to be involved with the ongoing discussion and planning of McEuen Field as it relates to Tubbs Hill and urge the city to consider our input. We believe our city parks, including Tubbs Hill in its natural state, are among the finest in the state, and we support efforts to make them even better.

**TUBBS HILL FOUNDATION**

**Peter C. Luttrupp, President**

**cc. Mayor Sandi Bloem**

**City Council**

**City Administrator**