

Deanna Goodlander's public comment to the Coeur d'Alene council – 1/20/2015

HERE TO SPEAK ABOUT INDEPENDENCE POINT AND THE PLANS THAT ARE CIRCULATING TO TAKE ALMOST ALL OF THE PARKING FROM THAT LOCATION.

FOR MANY OF US WHO ARE DISABLED OR ELDERLY THAT IS THE LAST LOCATION FOR US TO GO AND ENJOY THE VIEW DOWN THE LAKE.

IF YOU LOOK AT WHAT IS AVAILABLE, THE DIKE ROAD IS A VIEW OF THE RIVER AND PARKING THERE IS VERY LIMITED. THERE IS NO PARKING ON THE CENTENNIAL TRAIL SIDE OF THE DIKE, LAKESHORE DRIVE HAS NO PARKING, THEN COMES INDEPENDENCE POINT AND PARKING AND VIEWS,

WE TOOK ACCESS ALONG THE BOAT RAMP FOR CARS AWAY WHEN WE REDID MCEUEN. I VOTED FOR THAT BECAUSE I BELIEVED THAT THE ACCESS FOR ALL THE PEOPLE WAS IMPORTANT FOR THAT PARK.

OUR NEXT OPPORTUNITY TO VIEW DOWN THE LAKE IS ALONG SANDERS BEACH, WHICH IS BLOCKED BY FENCING OF THE PRIVATE PROPERTIES AND LIMITED PARKING.

THE NEXT SHOT AT A VIEW IS ON LAKESHORE DRIVE JUST PAST THE BIG CONDOMINIUM COMPLEX BY THE RESORT GOLF COURSE AND THAT VIEW IS NOW IMPACTED BY THE TOPS OF THE BLUE TARPS THAT THE NEW MARINA SERVING THE CONDO'S. YOU WILL NOTICE THAT THE MARINA IS NOT IN FRONT OF THE CONDO'S BUT RATHER IN FRONT OF THE PUBLIC PROPERTY.

SO AS YOU SEE THERE IS ONE ONLY ONE LOCATION TO VIEW THE LAKE FROM A PARKED CAR. NOW I UNDERSTAND THAT THERE IS A POTENTIAL PLAN TO TAKE THE PARKING FROM INDEPENDENCE POINT POSSIBLY LEAVING FOUR HANDICAPED SPACES

THAT AREA COULD BE MADE VERY ATTRACTIVE AND STILL LEAVE AT LEAST HALF OF THE PARKING SPACES ON THAT LOCATION.

WHEN I WAS ON THE COUNCIL I MET A GENTLEMAN WHO SAID TO ME THAT HE WOULD TAKE HIS ELDERLY MOTHER TO GET A HAMBURGER AND THEN THEY WOULD SIT AT INDEPENDENCE POINT AND ENJOY THE VIEW TOGETHER. I KNOW THERE ARE OTHERS WHO DO THE SAME THING.

WE HAVE TAKEN APPROXIMATELY 20 PARKING SPACES OFF THE STREETS WITH THE REALIGNMENT OF FRONT STREET AND THIRD STREETS, WHICH WHEN I WAS ON THE COUNCIL I VOTED AGAINST.

THERE USED TO BE HANDICAPED PARKING SPACES ON BOTH THIRD AND FOURTH. THOSE ARE NOW GONE AND APPARENTLY NOT GOING TO BE REPLACED.

THERE IS HANDICAPED PARKING IN THE MCEUEN PARKING GARAGE, BUT TO A PERSON ON CRUTCHES GETTING UP THE ELEVATOR AND HIKING UP THE HILL TO SHERMAN IS NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE. GIVE IT A TRY SOMETIME. COUNCIL YOU NEED TO LOOK AT THAT.

THE STATEMENT TO ME WHEN I WAS LOOKING AT THE FOUR CORNERS PLANS AND QUESTIONING THE LOSS OF PARKING AT INDEPENDENCE POINT WAS “ WHAT IS MORE IMPORTANT, PEOPLE OR CARS.” I WOULD SUBMIT TO YOU MAYOR AND COUNCIL THAT CARS ARE VERY IMPORTANT TO PEOPLE WHO HAVE DIFFICULTY GETTING AROUND. PLEASE WHEN LOOKING AT THOSE PLANS KEEP US IN MIND.