

Dudley Do-Right comment re: boat trailer parking on new McEuen

I was in the meeting this morning and was excited to hear about the tree count and the design progress made to date

The part that really chaps my hide is the discovery that the lower level parking lot edge has been pushed 65 feet out into the park for the sole purpose of accomodating the boat launch parking closer to the current launch location. The financial consequences are that over \$500,000 of cost premium has been added to the project. So we're losing green space and increasing the park costs just to accomodate 22 of the 48 boat parking spaces a few hundred feet closer to the launch.

I've walked or driven past this park almost daily for years now and I seldom see the boat parking spaces fully utilized on a regular basis, and if so, only during the summertime. During the other 9 months of the year the boat parking sits empty. It would be a shame to see the loss of valuable acres of green space that could be used year-round in our new four-season park to accomodate the infrequent boat launch users in the summer time.

At some point it's inevitable that the boat launch will be relocated and the boat trailer parking will become irrelevant. So I'm really disappointed that we'll be suffering the loss of acres of green space for years to come because of a short term political compromise made with a group of opposition leaders that will never be satisfied.

I know that the perfect can be the enemy of the good, and I'm an absolute pragmatist about the compromises required to make a project like this a reality. However, I feel like this is a shortsighted decision that really is not in the best interest of the broader community that will be using McEuen Park. We should re-examine this now during the design phase while these plans are still just on paper and not in concrete.

A statement was made by one of the presenters in the meeting this morning that with some simple re-stripping, we could accomodate ALL of the boat trailer parking on the new lot being constructed near City Hall. This means we could cut \$500,000+ in unnecessary costs from the budget as well as make 2+ acres more green space in the park and still give an equivalent amount of boat trailer parking within a reasonable distance to the launch.

I would encourage Team McEuen and the advisory committee to take another look at this issue before it's too late.