

Kiwanis

Idaho Panhandle

www.panhandlekiwanis.org

March 21, 2015

Dear Mayor Widmeyer and Coeur d'Alene City Council Members,

The Idaho Panhandle Kiwanis Club is submitting this letter to go on record with concerns we have regarding the current Four Corners concept.

The Idaho Panhandle Kiwanis Club, a local volunteer service organization, has supported the City of Coeur d'Alene with a variety of projects and contributions for the past 40 years. Some of our contributions included improvements in the Coeur d'Alene City Park with benches, trees, and Fort Sherman Playground to name a few. We also own and manage one of the largest arts & craft shows in the Inland Northwest; *The Taste of the Coeur d'Alene*. This event, in combination with *Art on the Green* and the downtown *Street Fair*, which all run simultaneously, is one of the most significant events within our community.

Our concerns stem from five major elements: the divided trail along the north side of the park, the location of Mullan Rd, the relocated Museum & HREI Buildings, the removal of the restroom facilities in the north end of the park, and the routing of the proposed Commuter Trail. The *Taste of Coeur d'Alene* averages between 100 to 120 arts and craft vendors and upwards of 20 more food vendors. We also provide three days of entertainment at the park Rotary Band Shell during the event. Our arts & craft vendors extend from Independence Point to the west side of the park and utilize both sides of the trail that runs through this area.

The separated trail would both impede the flow of the event, the ability for customers to shop booths, and eliminate trees along the pathway. We have also included a map of the park that we use in planning our event in which you can see how many trees are in line with our booth numbering as the park is currently. We have invested in placing survey pins in the ground marking these booths in the park and also upgrading the electrical capacity with the addition of a transformer, jointly with Ironman, to improve the park for events like ours.

If the scale of the design team's concepts is correct, the proposed relocation of Mullan Road appears to move into the park by nearly 75 feet. This would eliminate a great number of additional trees in the north end of the park, some of which are specimen

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adult trees. The current plan does not show an access road into the park that services special events such as the *Taste of Coeur d'Alene* but also services the Rotary Band Shell and the main picnic shelter. Without proper access to food and craft vendor locations plus the Rotary Band Shell, our event would appear to be on the verge of being eliminated.

The proposed plan would also eliminate nearly half of those 100 plus vendor locations with the location of the museum on the west side of the HREI Building. The combination of a relocated road into the Park, the widening and separating of the Centennial Trail and positioning the museum on the west side of the HREI building all add to a significant reduction of trees plus reduction of park land.

A huge concern is that the current proposed plan does not show any restrooms in the north end of the park. The plans do show restrooms at Independence Point and Memorial Field but those are too far away from the most consistent year round and largest park user group; the children using Fort Sherman Playground.

One last concern is the routing of the Commuter Trail. It is shown to meander from Northwest Boulevard and go behind Memorial Field and enter the park near Park Drive and Mullan Avenue. We do not believe this is the right location to send commuters which would ultimately place them in the heart of heavy pedestrian traffic. This seems to defeat the purpose of this trail and it would create a big conflict during the Taste of the Coeur d'Alene's; the commuter users would essentially not be able to use that route due to the heavy pedestrian traffic. We strongly recommend that the Commuter Trail continue along Northwest Boulevard and connect to the Centennial Trail at Independence Point.

This plan, to the Idaho Panhandle Kiwanis Club, adds to the potential demise of our largest fundraising event, of which all net proceeds are reinvested within our community. We have attached a list of just a few of our contributions to supporting the city and its parks over the last 40 years. This would be a huge loss to the community as this event brings in a lot of new dollars to our economy. Not only is this event a fundraiser for our club and a boost to the economy but it also generates from \$14,000 to \$18,000 per year in parks fees to the city. A reason the event has grown to its high level of success over its 27 years has to do with the location and the ambiance of the Park. The trees provide much needed shade during the hot August temperatures along with the open space of the Park.

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In closing, we would like to express our concern that we were not contacted or consulted about any of the proposed changes. These are initial reactions to the proposal that we saw via another group that had a presentation. We know other groups and organizations were given the courtesy of being asked for input. Our decades of supporting the park system brings us to the point of requesting an audience with the design team and the CDA Parks & Recreation Commission to try and resolve the above listed concerns.

On behalf of the Idaho Panhandle Kiwanis Board & Officers,

Dave Kilburg
President

Sarah McCracken
Taste of Coeur d'Alene Chair

c. Parks & Recreation Commission

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City of Coeur d'Alene & Idaho Panhandle Kiwanis Joint Project Efforts:

- **Bluegrass Park:** Playground Material & Disc Golf Course
- **Cherry Hill Park:** Playground Features & Disk Golf Course
- **911 Memorial Plaza:** Participation in Opening Ceremony & Donation
- **Fort Sherman Playground:** \$175,000 Capital Investment, over 2,000 hours
- **The Landings Park:** Bark Installation & Tree Planting
- **Shadduck Park:** Playground
- **Northshire Dog Park:** \$2,500 donation for initial funding
- **Independence Point:** ADA Accessible docks
- **McEuen Park:** Funding of \$36,000 for Splash Pad
- **Tubbs Hill:** Lower bridge support costs & signage
- **Phippeny Park:** Trees & Installation
- **Coeur d'Alene City Beach:** Benches and Trees along seawall
- **Coeur d'Alene City Park:** \$10,000 transformer upgrades (w/ Ironman)
- **Parks Day Celebration Sponsor since inception**

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