

Boat Ramp Proposal

I will attempt to address the issues brought up in this petition and offer alternatives to this proposal.

As stated in the petition recently submitted, dated August 2020, the issue stated, is the increased usage of the boat ramp.

We have always seen increased usage in the summertime.

Regarding the safe practices, it is the responsibility of the people using the ramp to socially distance themselves and not the responsibility of the City to mandate that. The City has posted signs sufficiently reminding people of the COVID-19 concerns.

In the same petition there is a paragraph regarding the history of the boat ramp. While some is correct, much is inaccurate and irrelevant to what has already been decided previously over the last few years at various City council meetings. One of the correct points made was that in 2018 the city council after hearing many arguments decided to keep the boat ramp hours as they are presently.

There is no need to change the hours and have them shortened to well before dark. Others, including myself enjoy the calmness and the beauty of the river from the bank, kayaks and paddleboards during the evening hours.

The petition also states that the neighbors are placed in a position of policing the boat ramp. The petition states that there have been countless conflicts with neighbors. I suggest that these conflicts are not originating with the people using the boat ramp but instead by 2 or 3 neighbors at the end of Marlin Ave, and on the upstream side of the ramp.

The proposal asks for additional ramp regulations. These regulations are overreaching as far as the use of the boat ramp. These proposed regulations have the following characteristics:

Time: Closing the boat ramp 2 hours before the sun sets is unfair to the community.

Place: Petition suggests that any activity on the boat ramp located within 8' of an adjacent dwelling be prohibited.

This is a mute point because the pavement is not within 8' of any adjacent building. Although if the boundaries of the ramp are, then the adjacent property owner must realize that activities can be taking place up to the boundary of the boat ramp. At the time when these properties were developed, Rivergrove had a 5' setback and that may already place two adjoining dwellings within that space. Any effort to increase that space will only have the effect of narrowing the boat ramp.

Manner: The proposal attempts to eliminate people putting a boat into the river that has a motor no matter how small, and people also would be prohibited from taking a book or lunch to the end of the boat ramp and sitting in a chair enjoying the river. This proposal also asks that no minors be allowed on the boat ramp without an adult.

All of this is overreaching and the City should not or even attempt to enforce these.

Parking: The proposal stipulates that non residential parking shall be limited to 5 marked spaces for the boat ramp.

It has worked quite smoothly to have people with kayaks and paddleboards park along the edge of the park so that they can unload and inflate any rafts or kayaks in that space. Five parking spaces would be used almost immediately if there were 2 people who had trailers to put their boats in the river, although this rarely happens. Additionally we have seen immediate residents park their vehicles along the park and each side of the boat ramp in an effort to make it more difficult to gain access to the ramp. I am sure that we would see this same thing happen where neighbors would park their vehicles in the boat ramp parking spaces. I strongly suggest that designated parking spaces not happen as it will just be another source of conflict.

Signage:

Posting additional regulations at the boat ramp will just create additional confusion. It only gives more ammunition to adjacent neighbors to come and attempt to police and enforce new regulations. We already have an extensive amount of signs and that's why they don't get looked at. I suggest that we eliminate most of the signs at the boat ramp and allow the community to use the ramp in good judgement.

Maybe a sign that says "Thank you for being considerate of the boat ramp access and helping to keep it clean is appreciated".

In closing, all of the things that are being presented have been discussed previously, making this proposal redundant.

I also know that many of the neighbors who signed this petition did not read it in its entirety and were simply given a few verbal highlights before signing, a very common occurrence as we all know.

Thank you for your consideration,

Doug McLean
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