

Linda Ann Kuller

From: Robert Porter <bbporter@rockisland.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 22, 2018 12:56 PM
To: Jamie Stephens
Cc: Linda Ann Kuller; Lopez Village Subarea Planning Comments; DL - Council; Bill Watson; Rick Hughes; Robert Porter
Subject: RE: Draft Lopez Village Plan

TO: Jamie Stephens, San Juan County Council
FROM: Bob Porter
RE: Comments regarding the Public Hearing and joint meeting of the County Council and the San Juan County Planning Commission on September 21st at the Lopez Community Center

Good Morning Jamie,

After reviewing and analyzing my notes late last night and after listening to the public testimony yesterday, I have a few additional observations and comments to add to the discussion and final decision and implementation.

During the entire time that the Lopez Village Planning and Review Committee spent in putting together the draft plan for the future development of the Village there was early on some discussion on water access and dock issues but it never went any further. As you know, it was not a part of or included in the final draft by this Committee. The Staff revisions were added after the final draft was published and distributed and posted on the San Juan County Web Page and Internet. No one was aware of these additions and probably are still unaware and only learned of them yesterday and only by those in attendance at the joint Council/Planning Commission meeting.

*. Slide titled "Staff Recommended Revisions". Addition to the Implementation Plan - Port project regarding access to Lopez Village (per 8-15-18 LVPRC meeting:

Several months ago, the Port of Lopez proposed the construction of a dock and float at either the end of Old Post Road (Haven Restaurant) or the county road end beach access on Weeks Point Way. The Port proposal, while well intentioned, was initially not thoroughly investigated or historically researched. Within two weeks of the LVPRC Meeting on 8/15, 28 property owners with personal knowledge of the tidal currents, past accidents, safety and navigational hazards at the entrance to Fisherman Bay voiced a strong negative response to this proposal as a bad idea and many have written letters on their own. In addition, four former Port of Lopez Commissioner's who have in the past been down this same road in both 1972 and 1992 oppose the Port's current proposal. In 1972, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers mitigated essentially the same project down to a boat launch ramp. This is documented. San Juan County began construction and hauled in several loads of quarry rock, which remains today. The county and public works realized early on that this was a very poor and hazardous location for trailer launched boats and abandoned the entire project. In 1992, essentially the same project was again proposed, this time by the Port of Lopez. After a well attended standing room only negative public hearing and granting agency discouragement, the Port project was dropped. On or about August 15, 2018, this year, the United States Coast Guard called Port of Lopez Commissioner Paul Henricksen and informed him that any proposal for a dock in the channel or the entrance to Fisherman Bay would be denied. As a result, the Port of Lopez is withdrawing any further plans or investigation of a dock at either of these two locations. It is crystal clear at this point that the Staff should also withdraw this addition to the Implementation plan. However, in lieu of a dock, there is wide public support and no visible objection for beach restoration and enhancement at both of these locations. If the large and non native rocks were removed from the tidal area, kayakers and small boat owners would be more inclined to use those two beaches as they do extensively now to launch and beach their craft, rather than trespass

on private property. According to the experts shoreline small boat use does not adversely affect the habitat of either marine growth or forage fish habitat. There is no down side.

* Slide titled "Other Public Comment Highlights".

3rd bullet down. Dock/beach enhancement. Dock" should be eliminated. Beach restoration and enhancement should remain.

I trust these observations and recommendations will be seriously taken into consideration.

Sincerely,
BOB

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