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Marion County
Planning

Marion County Planning Division

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Marion County Planning

RE: Open record extension, FP/GW 20-003 Marion County/FOHB

We are writing in opposition to the Permit Case NO-20-003 to install a Gangway and Dock on Butte St.

We would again like to express our concerns of adding a gangway and dock.

As you are already aware of this is a small area and community. With the addition of the Park in the last 2 years traffic, parking, congestion, crime and safety have been of great concern.

We don't understand how a park for recreational purposes can be put at the end of a right of way.

Why was the applicant (Ben Williams) who has no ownership or jurisdiction over the said right of way able to file the application?

Furthermore the following conditions G, I, L, M and O have not been met.

G. Prior to 2017 there was a beautiful natural path which allowed access to the river. Unfortunately many beautiful trees and natural vegetation was removed without the property owner's permission.

I. The proposed use of land will change to a commercial/recreation area. River access was always available and not denied. There hasn't been a dock there for 50 plus years.

L. The recreational use has already interfered with adjoining properties and causing safety issues for the community. Traffic congestion, party site, drugs, alcohol, numerous threats altercations, safety issues and trash.

M. Public safety is a huge issue as we have called law enforcement many times and the response time is anywhere from 45 minutes to 3 hours as we are located at the very north end of Marion County in a rural area. Also there is confusion as to who will respond either the Marion County Sheriff or Oregon State Police. The addition of a gangway and dock will intensify the currently difficult situation we are already having. The park has already been an attractive nuisance for all the wrong reasons.

O. Nothing has been done to minimize vandalism, trespassing or adverse effects on adjoining properties. We have tried to express to FOHB the problems and concerns were having and it continues to fall on deaf ears.

Since 2017 the park has already caused so many problems to the community. Most of the FOHB board members don't live in the area and won't understand the impact of additional improvements (gangway/dock) will have to the community.

Ben Williams and FOHB attorney has said this isn't a park but a staging area for canoes and kayaks.

However there are picnic tables, benches and grassy areas where people are picnicking and having barbeques.

This is absolutely a Park!

Also Ben Williams made a remark that this was all due to COVID 19 which is not correct this has been going on since 2017 and getting worse as time went by.

We ask that you deny the permit for this gangway and dock.

To preserve our community/neighborhood.

For the Safety of our community/Neighborhood.

For the Safety of our children and families.

To keep our Neighborhood from becoming a traffic nightmare with boat trailers, more cars; human traffic and congestion in an already dangerous curve and area that is not equipped for this type of application.

The County nor OPRD will commit to upkeep and safety. FOHB with their ageing BOD and neighborhood commitment is not a guaranty of upkeep for future.

Sincerely,

Steve & Sue Roberts

Steve & Sue Roberts

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