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318-2023

Communication

Request of Peter Creede to address Council regarding attack at Normandale Park

Placed on File
A brief description of Communication: Attack at Normandale Park

Agenda Items

318 Communications in [April 26, 2023 Council Agenda](#)

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Requested Agenda Type
Communications

Date and Time Information

Requested Council Date
April 26, 2023

318-320

From: Dolores Creede doecreede@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony to City Council from Peter and Doe Creede Re:
Illegal Normandale Memorial and Assault of Peter
Date: Apr 26, 2023 at 3:12:43 AM
To: Peter Creede petercreede@gmail.com, Doe Creede
doecreede@gmail.com

Really! These pictures say it all:

Feb 19, 2022

Our whole neighborhood was traumatized that night! This was a mass shooting by a deranged person that killed one woman and left one permanently paralyzed for life. And it left our neighborhood feeling unsafe to walk on our streets at night, or use the park that our children grew up playing in. We have lived here safely for over 40 years.

We have had children playing soccer and games freely right where this so called memorial now serves as a permanent barrier and a repeated call to hate.

One of our neighbors used to be seen daily feeding the birds in this spot. Over the years, we have had picnics and games here. The annual Children's Rose parade has gathered on this corner. The Erv Lind stadium has been a fixture in our community here since I was a child. We regularly heard kids laughing and screaming from these stands.

Now, we have a new neighbor: A young woman who came home right after moving here, to the sounds of screaming and seeing bodies laying in the street near her house.

She now has PTSD and has to leave the house when she hears the sound of those children screaming and laughing while playing ball. I just heard her talking with another young woman while walking their dogs.....AWAY from Normandale Park now. Her young friend was saying : "Yeah, we have a game in the neighborhood now. It's called: Is it firecrackers or is it gunfire?"

Originally, this group took over and graffitied, and vandalized the whole brick structure in the park for several nights as they held vigil after the attack. (Seen in photo).

Very much like that left by anarchists supposedly supporting Black Lives Matter groups who wrecked vandalism all over this city. We saw these

figures openly toting firearms as they mourned the memory of TRex whose name was splattered on those walls.

Many of us neighbors were sympathetic to the tragedy that had occurred, even though none of us was ever included in or informed of their original "protest" plans.

And, just as it has down town, that initial vandalism and graffiti soon disappeared as it was cleaned up and prohibited by the Portland Park bureau.

Then, sometime later, we began to see a few tokens, candles, a flower pot show up on the corner of the park....seemingly like you might see on the roadside after a traffic fatality. And, out of respect, we left it alone.

But it has grown and grown ever since and usually in the dark of night with constant graffiti and vandalism ever since. Often accompanied by hate speech and further graffiti trying to provoke the police or the city. In fact, this has made it much harder to get police response or protection in our community. There have been cars driving by the memorial shooting at each other. And the bird lady crouches in fear in her living room, often scared of figures she sees lurking in cars near where she used to feed the birds.

~~We~~ We are all fearful of becoming targets if we publicly object to this memorial.

On the night of Feb 18, 2023, Peter was out walking our little dog. He saw two heavily masked men spraying graffiti on the street in front of the memorial. Asked them : "What ya doing? One replied "None of your fucking business. It's a public street, we can do what we want". Peter said: "Well, I live here, this is my neighborhood. I'm not masked. You are. Who are you and what are you doing here?" He said: "I'm here mourning my girlfriend who was killed here a year ago." Peter replied: "Spray painting graffiti is not mourning". At which point he suddenly sucker punched Peter knocking him down. In the ensuing scuffle, the other man said: "Hey, I've got a gun". Peter

left. We called 911 and were advised to seek medical care. Spent the night in ER checking for a concussion. A policeman took the report over the phone. He told us he'd gone by the park but the perpetrators were gone....And since Peter hadn't been able to see their faces, he thought nothing much could be done.

Peter said: "It all happened so fast that I remember being stunned by the assault. I'm still trying to process this. In all my 76 years, I've never been physically attacked. I've served as an officer in the Navy. I spent my life building bridges with my neighbors. I've been part of peaceful protests over the years and have never resorted to violence. This whole incident has left me feeling violated and victimized with no apparent recourse."



You can see in these photographs many examples of their handiwork left at the memorial in the guise of honoring their friend who they describe as a fellow "Corker"

Right here in this picture of the memorial, you can see where the word ANTIFA is spray painted in the spot Peter confronted the 2 guys.

The street is filled with words like "kill all the cops"...."White supremacists die".....

Water utility street barricades and porta potties are vandalized and labeled "Ted Wheeler's Office"

They've used stolen Gas company barricades and bright red cones to reinforce and draw attention to their growing structure. Any candles and plantings are left to litter and grow wildly or rot. And there has certainly been no inclusion of the community in this ongoing "tribute"

So

1. This is not a simple TEMPORARY roadside memorial like you would see after a car accident. Indeed, most of those are simple little tableaux which may serve as cautionary reminders of dangerous driving areas and often

disappear over short times on their own.

• The Portland Park bureau has rules that state "Temporary memorials (and this is far beyond temporary....going on now for over 14 months) shall be removed if they cause a HAZARD or UNSAFE conditions.".....Well it doesn't get much more unsafe than this is right now.

2. For something more permanent, the Portland Parks statute makes reference to arranging for a TREE or a BENCH and there is a process and fees associated with those memorials in parks and on public land as well as regulations on who is responsible for maintaining them.

3. As regards this illegal structure and it's stolen barricades:

If this is not a park memorial, but is instead considered to be on a public road, PBOT states: " It is unlawful for any person to erect or obstruct any roadway, curb or sidewalk by leaving or placing any object, material or article which may prevent free passage over any part of such street or sidewalk area."

4. In addition, there is reference in the code to memorials on roadways and they refer to processes by which people who can honor persons such as servicemen, police and firefighters with permanent road signs.

And this memorial certainly doesn't fall into that category.

OR SHOULD WE START ALLOWING FOR ERECTION OF "MEMORIALS" FOR EVERY GUNSHOT VICTIM IN THIS CITY?

There were 101 homicides in this city alone last year including this one victim here.

• And that doesn't even begin to count all those hundreds who were maimed and injured. If we allow for a memorial to all of those victims, I am sure we would soon have every street corner in this city overflowing with memorials. So please, do your jobs. Enforce the laws and help our community return to some semblance of peace and normalcy by removing this illegal, divisive and Hate filled memorial from our neighborhood.

I am sure that a woman who was professed to have been there to help bridge relations with the community and help support the cause of oppressed people would not want her legacy to be one of hate and violence. Instead, once this has been removed, our community would like to come together to help create something much more positive. Perhaps a monument or place of reflection honoring ALL gunshot victims? The Max Transit 42nd street memorial is a great example of creating something positive out of a horrible, tragic event. It involved input from community, government and local artists. They created a monument expressing compassion, love and Community.

So, Please. Help restore peace to our community and make it a place we can feel safe in again, and proud of what we can create together.

Doe



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STOP

STOP

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A mass shooting occurred at Normandale Park on February 19, 2022

- One person was murdered, and several others were horribly injured.
- For a full year since that tragic event, our neighborhood has been under duress.
- A growing memorial has attracted violent activity, including ongoing gunfire, excessive graffiti and vandalism. Neighbors are afraid to walk out their front doors and are often in fear as cars assemble with strangers sitting and lurking. Illegal traffic barricades and cones appear designed to provoke confrontations rather than invite honoring the memory of a special person.
- It has in effect held a whole neighborhood hostage to violence and hatred. We fear being targeted.
- We plead with the city to have this memorial peacefully recovered so our neighborhood can heal.





Assaulted at Normandale Park on February 18, 2023

- Peter (age 76) was assaulted after questioning 2 masked men lurking by the memorial. One man cold cocked him and the other threatened that he had a gun.
- We have been residents of this neighborhood, adjacent to Normandale Park, for 45 years.
- We have watched our kids grow up here and have peacefully enjoyed the ever-changing community of friends and neighbors that entire time... until last year.

