

From: NancyVardanega [<mailto:nancyvardanega@comcast.net>]
Sent: Friday, March 04, 2016 8:58 AM
To: Planning and Sustainability Commission <psc@portlandoregon.gov>
Cc: Timme & Laura Helzer <helzert@comcast.net>
Subject: TSP Testimony

Dear Mr. Geller,

My husband and I applaud your efforts to make Portland a more bike friendly city. He is a dedicated bicyclist. We both know bicycling is a great part of our community.

However, a plan to change the walking paths to multi use paths on Hayden Island, we believe, is ill advised.

It is not like any other area of the city, which is why we chose to become residents.

Hayden Island includes a large senior/retired population which uses the walking paths to safely exercise and maintain a healthy lifestyle. The path also offers a great exercise option to low-income members of the community who can't afford a gym. It provides a link to nature and a serenity we need to manage the stresses of the world around us. It offsets the noise of planes overhead and, at times, a roaring speedway, and the often difficult commute home.

We can assure you the part of the path near our home is used extensively by walkers and people exercising their dogs. Portland, as you know, is also a very "dog-loving" community. Hayden Island is no exception.

The current path is an area where Geese and ducks, and other wildlife feed. They would be traumatized by swiftly moving bicycles. We've seen their distress when people break the rules and ride bicycles down the path.

Hayden Bay is also home to boat docking and many recreational water sports. Widening the path, and carving out a part of the bay to make a multi-use path would severely impact the environment around it, and have terrible consequences for the many people who use the water.

If the area was suitable for a bigger multi-use path we don't think people would object. But the people who actually live here do not believe it would be a responsible use of the area.

Please, choose carefully, listen to the people most affected by this. We believe our current political climate is so shattered because so many people have not been heard, have not been served and have lost faith and patience.

The most important part of a great city is caring for its residents. All of its residents.

Please, do not pursue a bike path on Hayden Island. Perhaps look at improving and extending the bike paths along Marine Drive/ The Columbia River.

Thank you for your consideration.

As Maya Angelou once said, "When you know better, you do better."

We have great confidence, as you hear and understand how the people on this Island feel about this proposal and the facts surrounding it, you will make the right choice.

Sincerely,

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