

From: Mary Lou Vanslavie
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Subject: Win/Win

To Rivergrove City Council,

Create a city environment that thrives on unity and an understanding of one another through improved communication and personal interactions creating interconnected relationships which lead to a win/win. This goal adopted by the Rivergrove City Council is one I fully support.

Much has been said in letters, emails, public meetings and on social media regarding the usage of the Stark Boat Ramp for a number of years. Often the dialogue has been negative and divisive. That cannot be good for the reputation of our city!

You have heard the issues and received a number of good recommendations. I support the progress made on addressing some of the concerns that have been raised, such as posted hours of boat ramp, locked gate during closed hours and signage for gate to be closed for the safety of children playing in the park. But more can and should be done. It seems like the loudest and most vocal residents who do not live in close proximity to the boat ramp are heard most. As council members you have the responsibility to listen to all residents. The people who are most impacted are those living near the park and boat ramp. This is our neighborhood! Ramp users come and go, but we are the ones who live here and wish to enjoy our neighborhood like other citizens enjoy their immediate neighborhoods.

A survey completed by residents residing on Tualamere, Dogwood and Marlin was completed and submitted to City Council in August, 2020. The response rate was about 77% and all of the respondents had concerns regarding the escalation of boat ramp usage. You can see from the results that nearly everyone in the immediate vicinity had concerns. It is the city's responsibility to work hand in hand with those residents to come up with solutions to mitigate the usage of the boat ramp, traffic congestion, public safety, noise, parking and inadequate signage.

As council members representing the citizens of Rivergrove, the neighborhood should be your first consideration, the boat ramp second. These issues have gone on for too long. It is time City Council act on concerns voiced by the residents on Tualamere, Dogwood and Marlin to create a win/win situation.

Respectfully,
Mary Lou Vanslavie