

Fitch, Abby

From: Melissa Tatro <melissa.tatro@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 8, 2024 11:55 AM
To: Public Comment
Cc: McNally, Nancy; Nurmela, Sarah; DeMott, David; Ireland, Kristine; Carmelia, Claire; Hott, Amber; Ezeadi, Obi; Opie, Barbara; Herrera-Mishler, Tomas; Reale, Joe; Freitag, Mark
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Westminster Hills Advocates and July 8th Resolution

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Greetings Westminster City Council,

The Westminster Hills Advocates began their petition (www.westminsterhills.org) when it became abundantly clear that City Council was making decisions about WHOS with little concern for the broader Westminster community.

- You've actively ignored the piles of research and throngs of experts proclaiming the impacts of dogs on short grass prairie.
- You've dismissed the condition reports depicting long term degradation of the land and instead naively claimed, "It looks green to me."
- You've disregarded nonprofit entities who've unpacked the interconnectedness of the land, its animals and our shared future, instead proclaiming, "There are birds out there, so it's all good."
- You've literally adopted the talking points of an agenda driven interest group with limited scientific knowledge. And you continue to spout their known inaccuracies from the Dias. (Although you repeatedly say it, there are not 6600 acres of open space, Councilor Hott, there are 3817 acres and you're pushing to rezone 11% of them.)

Local residents, surrounding municipalities, concerned environmental advocates, academic experts, many of which own dogs, have tried over and over again to help you understand the enormous error of rezoning this entire parcel for a slow decline and ultimate demise.

The ordinance proposed tonight is city workers indulging your willful ignorance. You've literally bullied them into offering you tonight's non-reality. This ordinance has NO protections for the land, but instead will fail the land and everyone who cares about it. Shortgrass prairie and off leash dogs cannot mutually coexist. It's not debatable. You can imagine otherwise. You can change the zoning to remove your responsibility to the land. You can try to seed and reseed the property, throwing away taxpayer dollars because you lack the fortitude to make uncomfortable choices. But you can't protect the property without limiting off-leash dogs. Period.

And perhaps more importantly, you cannot approve this ordinance without disregarding the VAST MAJORITY of your constituents.

The petition began as a way to give local, silenced, even disillusioned residents a place to express their

value for open space and their dissatisfaction with your handling of this issue. Turns out the city's recent PRL survey provides far more evidence for this than our survey (or that of the Guardians) ever could.

- 90% of residents (your constituents) want their open space protected and preserved.
- Less than 18% of residents use dog parks across the city. That's a distinct minority.

Your mandate is abundantly clear. If you rezone this entire parcel, you violate: 1) the intention for the land upon purchasing, 2) the established best practices for shortgrass prairie across the front range and country, and 3) the desires of 90% of the city.

Council members who knowingly disregard the desires of the vast majority of their constituents ought to be recalled immediately.

Listen to those people you represent--ALL of them--and do not approve this ordinance.

Thank you,
Melissa Koss