Fitch, Abby

From: carol gosenheimer <cgosenheimer@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 8, 2024 11:25 AM
To: Public Comment
Cc: McNally, Nancy; Hott, Amber; Ireland, Kristine; Carmelia, Claire; DeMott, David; Ezeadi, Obi; Nurmela, Sarah
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Westminster Hills Open Space

Westminster City Council members,

I am writing regarding the Westminster Hills Open Space.

Throughout this entire process, Council has shown no concern for Westminster residents at large. You've dismissed the research of countless experts. You've ignored nonprofit organizations, and sister municipalities on this subject. You've eagerly aligned yourselves with a very small, vocal interest group. You've pretended the high emotion and sympathetic stories from dog owners justifies acting **against** the best interests of the land and the majority of this city's residents.

Last week you were presented with statistically valid survey data in the PRL survey. This data shows that 90 percent of Westminster residents value Open Space for its protection and preservation of land and wildlife, while less than 18 percent of residents use dog parks across the city.

How on earth can you justify rezoning this space when 90 percent of residents want to preserve open space? That's why you're sitting in those chairs: to sort through the noise and work towards the best interests of the broader community. Your job includes looking 10, 20, 30 years down the road to ensure our future success. In 1988, the city's leaders did that by purchasing the land for preservation. They wisely anticipated its future importance for EVERYONE in the city.

Yes, this particular space is important to dog owners. This particular space is ALSO important to residents who want to walk their dog on leash without confrontation. It's important to families with small kids, owners of reactive dogs and physically fragile residents. It's important to all residents who want to walk in that beautiful open space without being confronted by off-leash dogs. It's important to native wildlife, the overall ecosystem, and our wellbeing as an entire community. Why are you allowing the voice of one small group to drown out the interests of EVERYONE ELSE?? At every City Council meeting, off-leash dog owners talk about how Westminster Hills has profoundly impacted them. Why are they the only ones deserving of that experience? Why do they get to exclude everyone else?

The material presented tonight does nothing to protect the land or its animals. It is not inclusive for all users. It is fiscally irresponsible.
It simply allows the city to absolve itself from any responsibility to the land.

Before last week's PRL survey was shared, you might have been able to say you didn't know what residents want. You might have been able to pretend off-leash dog owners were the majority. But now that you know better, you have a responsibility to do better.

And councilors that disregard 90 percent of the Westminster residents they represent should be recalled immediately.

Do not approve Ordinance 4257. This city can do better.

Thank you for your time.
Carol Gosenheimer
Westminster resident