

April 9, 2001

Hi Travis,

Regarding your public access email:

First of all, I always appreciate hearing from you; I especially appreciate, as a local community member, the inventory of parks and park-like opportunities you take advantage of. I also think you represent a sizable portion of the local population.

The issue of maintenance of current parks is, I think, a rather complex one. And I am sure the issue cannot be addressed satisfactorily, as a board, in the time we have remaining. But just to comment, I suspect the inability to maintain parks is not entirely monetary/resource related, but rather, is symptomatic of an attitude in which parks simply do not hold a high priority. In a town with major water, funding, and other problems, that's not surprising. But personally, I've never felt that the existence of a larger problem is a good excuse to neglect a smaller one. This is outside the public access committee scope, but perhaps louder public emphasis on parks would cause some changes.

I have confidence that a public access recommendation is possible which will please all parties-that is, if dynamics don't get in the way, and this will likely be a problem. Also, I've gone into council meetings in the past, on other issues, with the same confidence only to have all my work ignored. And after realizing I've wasted my time (too many times) with that group, I no longer attend. Your comments about councilors and staff at the Saturday public meeting, cause me to wonder if I am again wasting my time. I am holding out hope that the board will be able to give due consideration to whatever recommendation that comes out of the public access subcommittee, and that the council will respect the board's final recommendation.

I have seen across the board that members, despite personal positions on issues, are able to listen and hear and consider. I certainly hope this issue won't be any different in that regard. I think the issue has been blown way out of proportion, and that it will only occupy a paragraph of the final recommendation. I understand that you don't support public access at this time. However, I take your position of leaving the issue open for us to explore as support for our subcommittee to do its job and I appreciate it.

Carol Paddock