

Alyssa Bryant

From: Jeff Cox
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2016 3:58 PM
To: Alyssa Bryant
Subject: FW: Duluth Zoo plan

From: jerryfredrickson [mailto:jerryfathert@aol.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2016 3:58 PM
To: Emily Larson
Cc: Council
Subject: Duluth Zoo plan

I was very underwhelmed with the recent plans suggested for the Duluth Zoo. The future of the Zoo is in jeopardy and it won't be rescued without a real plan that makes sense and also makes money. Please consider my long held idea: We should coordinate a plan with the local native American band of Chippewa to re-create an authentic Indian encampment on the unused portion of the Zoo property along the beautiful trout stream that nobody ever gets to see. Build authentic wigwams like camp sights above the creek and along a hiking trail that could be visited by tourists and students from around the region. Build an interpretive and learning center about Native American history and how the arrival of the white man impacted the lives of our first nation. This could be done in a positive and accurate way. I know several of the key personnel in the Fon du Lac community who would embrace this idea with open arms and open pocket books as well. The area where the old train operated on the Zoo property could be used for performances of culturally important celebrations and re-enactments of events from the period around 1800 when this area was first discovered. It would be a fantastic tourist destination and valuable as a history lesson at the same time. I can envision a number of wigwams along a trail from the base of Spirit Mountain all the way to the Zoo and along the trout stream. Going even further with this idea, I can imagine tourists possibly being willing to spend a day and overnight in one of the authentic wigwams as a once in a lifetime adventure. That would be a major undertaking, for certain, but not outside the realm of possibilities. This property was chosen for the Zoo many years ago by some pretty smart founding fathers of Duluth. We should be ashamed that we, as a city, have not done what is in the best interest of sustaining this wonderful city landmark. Here is a chance to really do something creative and unique for Duluth and the entire region. I have discussed this with several friends from the local Native tribe and they get excited about the prospect every time we kick around the idea. The potential is almost unimaginable. Please open your minds to something like this that would be much cheaper than some of the other vanilla ideas being discussed and it would become the number 1 tourist attraction in the entire region if done right. Thank you for considering this. Respectfully, Jerry Fredrickson. 218-391-7098