

Alyssa Bryant

From: Jeff Cox
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2016 9:26 AM
To: Alyssa Bryant
Subject: FW: the Duluth Zoo

-----Original Message-----

From: Elizabeth Donley [mailto:beaupbear@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 24, 2016 12:57 PM
To: Council
Cc: Emily Larson
Subject: the Duluth Zoo

Dear Councilors, Bear with me, I love this place. Duluth and the Zoo.

My passion is restoration, protection and improvement. In no particular order. The footprint of the Duluth Zoo, the original footprint that is, is perfect. I believe this can be restored and improved to allow for reorganization of the animals and attract humans too. The Como Zoo and several other beautiful old zoos.....Chicago and Milwaukee to name a few, are examples of honoring wonderful original structure along with expansion to support new ideas and new uses. Trails for hiking and biking, wonderful vast and private picnic areas, and maybe a grand new use too.

But first must come thought and careful consideration of this amazing jewel in the heart of Duluth. The creek, rock formations and existing trails must not be spent to gain quick access to the land. We have great fortune in Duluth having many many acres of such public owned property from one end of the city to the other. This area does not have to be everything. It is magnificent as it is.

I favor reconstruction of the basic original old plan. Clean it up, continue to restore the stone work. Remove some of the very terrible "new" building additions and additions to the main building. Simplicity and natural work will feel like Duluth and all visitors expect and love the charm of the old city. Stone and water and a little rough around the edges. We must maintain the "secret garden joy" of the place. We do not want to be Minneapolis or Rochester.

Others have mentioned the trail/walkway distance from exhibit to exhibit within the Lake Superior Zoo as a negative. WHAT?! This is exactly what we need to protect. The peace of the place, Strollers by the dozens on an easy to walk path, along side a beautiful creek that swells in spring and freezes somewhat in winter. Lessons of nature and the peace that passes all understanding for free at the zoo. This is what we need more of. And redesigning the path side gardens to include native plants and trees along with the animals is school in it's best form. Accidental learning.

Seems as if we have enough native animals to stock such a zoo too. Moose, deer, bear, wolves and all the smaller joyful ones.....fox, raccoons,we don't need stuffed or exotic. Just beautiful and real. Sometimes it is difficult to toss an enthusiastic new plan to reconsider what we already have. It is understandable to want to attract visitors, but Duluthians will always be the most important visitors to the Duluth Zoo. So let's represent the best we have and embrace turn of the century Duluth.

I try to stay involved in Duluth Parks volunteerism. I would be happy to serve in some way on a visionary team for the zoo too. We already have the structure of beauty and function.

A new plan with state funding that is not right for Duluth is not right at all. We can afford to step back and allow the right and best answer to have the time to form itself.

Thanks for all you all do...E. Donley 390-3011