

Public Comment, Woodinville City Council Meeting, September 9, 2014

Good evening,

I offer this observation: In my experience, there's a significant difference between speaking to the Woodinville City Council and to the Snohomish County Council.

In Everett, I get the sense that I'm talking to strangers – they could be elected officials from Minnesota or Nebraska – or anywhere else. When I speak with you, the Woodinville City Council, I know for a fact you are my neighbors.

So I ask you ... please don't be distracted by Snohomish County's demands to approve inadequate mitigations for their badly conceived Wellington Hills Park plan.

The discussion should not be about mitigation. In fact, the very notion of mitigation, relative to their sports complex plan, assumes the sports complex is the only choice for Wellington Hills Park.

Instead, I encourage you to represent the interests of our shared community by insisting that the City become a partner in the design and development of Wellington Hills Park.

Harking back to the beginning of all this ... Brightwater funds were intended to mitigate for the loss of local facilities displaced by the sewage treatment plant; the funds were not intended to create a countywide, tournament level facility.

Furthermore, the size and scope of the proposed sports complex plan for are inconsistent with its surroundings and the rural designation of the area.

Rural areas should not be easy targets for urbanization. Developments in rural areas should be limited to activities that continue to promote rural character.

And, the current proposal for multiple lighted fields and hundreds of parking stalls is clearly urban ... as are the noise and traffic that will be produced by sports events.

I also think you need to ask this question: Should taxpayer money be used to build an expensive sports complex for a for-profit sports business?

Is this any different than when pro sport team owners expect taxpayers to pay for their stadiums, arenas and ballparks?

This binder represents the efforts of Neighbors to Save Wellington Hills Park. In

it are hundreds of signed letters, which offer options to the County's sports complex plan - a plan that was conceived and developed behind closed doors.

The County's proposed plan needs to be rethought and significantly downsized. This area deserves better - a community park compatible with the rural setting of Wellington Hills Park and with Woodinville's residential communities.

I encourage you, the City Council to strongly oppose the plan for a countywide, tournament level sports facility

Thank you,

W.S.