

To: City Council and City Manager
From: Kitty Ebert, city resident
May 27, 2009

The parks workshop was a big disappointment to me as a citizen. The mayor allowed citizen input early in the meeting before Mrs. Wheeler, who was the initiator of this meeting, was permitted to give her input. The public opinion was mostly from out of town citizens championing a private businessman.

It would be wise to check and see if receiving grants allows you to accommodate commercial enterprises in our parks. Hunter Springs had a grant given in the 70's. When the city tried to charge for parking to off set the life guard fees we found out we could not charge because of the grant.

Are there parking requirements for parks like there are for commercial buildings and restaurants? If not there should be.

Now we have commercial dive boats and commercial kayak people telling us what to do with our park. Last night there were many County residents there. You all never got to talk much about our parks because they wanted to talk about Kayaks and what you should do for them. The other day I received an e-mail from Matt Clemons as all of you did. I was shocked that he as a business owner complained about our not making it easy for him to satisfy his customers. If you want to run a boat business go find your own water. The city has rental property for kayaks boats etc. and there is a kayak launch there.

Several years ago, tennis courts were built in LaGrone Park. We had a gentleman that was reserving most of the prime time for the courts to teach people how to play tennis and he was charging a lesson fee. Council put a stop to the situation. If you want to teach for free that is ok but you cannot teach and charge money while using public tennis courts. I would think the same would apply to our swimming beach.

It is absolutely ridiculous that we let commercial business operate in our parks. Hunter Springs is a beach park and should remain so. No motor boats, dive boats or kayak launches allowed.

You as council members are paid to make decisions and in this case you need to do just that. I am assuming you all do your homework and know all about our parks. What is the criteria for this new citizens committee for parks/kayaks launch.