

Opposition to Luma Vista Petition

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Hello Columbia County Commissioners –

I am writing to express opposition to the petition filed by the residents of Luma Vista Drive and Skyline Terrace for vacation of those roads. I believe you have likely received positions from County staff and City of Scappoose staff outlining why this petition is problematic. I'd like to share my concerns as a Scappoose City Councilor, former Vice Chair of the Scappoose Parks Committee, and resident of the City of Scappoose.

The City of Scappoose recently adopted the Parks Master Plan, which includes the 71 acres of Vista Park. The park currently has very limited access off of Bella Vista Rd, with capacity for one or two cars. Access from that entrance is quite steep and could be challenging for residents with varying physical abilities. Preserving the future ability to access Vista Park from Luma Vista means making this park accessible for residents of all ages and abilities for generations to come.

This park is integral to the acreage needed to bring an appropriate level of service to the community in terms of publicly available public land to recreate. Eliminating public access to Vista Park via Luma Vista Drive would effectively render that land useless as a component of our Parks Master plan and long-term vision of access to outdoor recreation opportunities for the residents of Scappoose.

I would note that granting the petition does also appear to be in violation of the County's rules around a request to vacate. The county rules for the request states "You must obtain the written consent of any abutting property owners" In section 7 of the petition, the City of Scappoose is listed as an entity "owning any real property abutting the property proposed to be vacated". Because the City has not signed a consent form, proceeding with granting the petition would be in violation of the County's own rules listed in your road vacation instructions (<https://www.columbiacountyor.gov/road-vacation-instructions>).

With this petition, the Commissioners are being asked to weigh the personal financial benefit of 7 families against the greater benefit of the 8,000-plus current residents of the City of Scappoose and all future generations of our City. I trust that the Commissioners will consider the broader impact of this decision on residents of Columbia County.

Please note that the City of Scappoose has recently changed our email addresses. My email address now ends with @scappoose.gov, the rest of the address is the same.



Kim Holmes

City Councilor

City of Scappoose

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