

City of Bellevue



Post Office Box 90012 • Bellevue, Washington • 98009-9012

May 17, 2010

Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church
Kurt Lutterman
2650 148th Avenue SE
Bellevue, WA 98007

Dear Mr. Lutterman,

I am writing on behalf of the Bellevue City Council regarding your letter of March 31. Thank you for expressing your concerns regarding off-leash dog facilities at Robinswood Park. Expanding off-leash at Robinswood Park is part of the Park Board's recommendation to City Council to address needs of the off-leash community expressed during the planning process for Eastgate Area Properties. Council generally supports the recommendation, but wants to better understand the impacts of this expansion before formally approving it.

Although plans have yet to be developed, we intend on preserving existing park character and large healthy trees with the expansion. We also anticipate that any off-leash area expansion would be fenced. A preliminary plan will be developed over the next few months, and we would be glad to share it with you in advance of a public meeting, if you desire.

We will contact you when preliminary plans are available, and notify you of other future outreach opportunities when we solicit further community input. Brian Krause will be contacting you to set up a meeting to further discuss Church concerns. You may contact Brian at 425-452-6992 or bjkrause@bellevuewa.gov with any additional questions or comments.

Thank you again for forwarding your concerns. We look forward to your participation as we work to bring these issues to resolution.

Sincerely,

Patrick Foran
Director

cc: Bellevue City Councilmembers
Parks & Community Services Board
Glenn Kost, Planning Manager
Brian Krause, Project Coordinator
Clare Moe, President, Congregation Council
James McEachran, Senior Pastor



COUNCIL
cc: CMO
CCO
PARKS -
P. FORAN FOR
RESPONSE

March 31, 2010

RECEIVED

APR - 7 2010

CITY COUNCIL

Bellevue City Council
450 110th Ave NE
P.O. Box 90012
Bellevue, WA 98009

Dear Council Members:

We are writing today to express our concerns with the proposed expansion of the off-leash dog facilities at Robinswood Park.

Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church is bordered on our North and East property lines by Robinswood Park.

Our concerns with an expanded off-leash dog facility are:

1. Noise during Worship – Our Sanctuary, the section of our building where we hold worship services, is the closest part of our building to Robinswood Park. The Sanctuary is less than 50 feet from the park boundary. Worship services are nearly always quiet, meditative gatherings. Services are held most often on Sunday mornings, but Memorial Services, Weddings and other services may be held any day of the week. The April 14, 2009 Draft Off-Leash Dog Study recommends *“Off-leash areas can generate considerable noise. It is recommended that a generous buffer be provided when located in residential areas. Experienced off-leash stewards recommend a minimum of 100’ buffer from residences and other use areas where noise generated in the off-leash area could create conflicts.”* We believe that our Sanctuary is an area where dog noise would create conflicts.
2. Noise to Memorial Garden Users - Saint Andrew’s maintains an outdoor Memorial Garden less than five feet from the park boundary. The Memorial Garden holds the ashes of deceased family members of our congregation. The Memorial Garden was designed as a quiet, contemplative space with benches for sitting in silence and remembering loved ones to the soft water sounds of the fountain. We purposely chose this site on our property less than three years ago to be shielded from the activity of the parking lot, and adjacent to the native woods of Robinswood Park. We believe that our Memorial Garden is an area where dog noise would create conflicts.
3. Park Users Using the Church Parking Lot – Currently, we experience several park users every day parking in the church’s parking lot and entering Robinswood Park via an informal trail access from our North property line. This issue is already an inconvenience, especially on Sunday mornings, as our worshippers regularly fill

our parking lot. We believe this problem will worsen with an expanded dog facility at Robinswood.

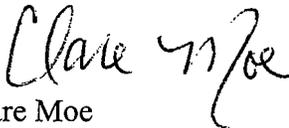
4. Liability for Dog Incidents – We are concerned that an increased number of dogs in Robinswood would cause more dogs to be on our property. That might lead to bite incidents with the many elderly and small children members that are on the church's grounds. Car accidents in the parking lot are also a concern.

To mitigate the impacts of the concerns above, we request the City of Bellevue...

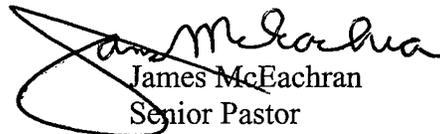
1. Incorporate significant noise barriers between the dog facility and Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church.
2. Install a fence or other barrier to prevent Robinswood Park access from the church's parking lot.
3. Maintain a significant buffer of native vegetation and mature trees along our North property line.
4. Involve Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church in the design of expanded dog facilities so that we may provide input on design elements.
5. Provide City of Bellevue liability for park user dog incidents that may occur on our property.

We invite the City's response to our concerns and requests. Please contact Saint Andrew's Facilities Manager Kurt Lutterman at 425-746-2529 or Kurt@salchome.org.

Thank you,



Clare Moe
President, Congregation Council



James McEachran
Senior Pastor

cc: Bellevue Parks and Community Services Board

