

Feb 14, 2008

Dear Mr. Mayor Jaquez and members of The City Council,

My name is Charles Hendershott and five months ago I moved here from New York City -- back to Colorado where I was raised and schooled. I bought a small brick house on the corner of 3rd Street and Rudd Ave. (right next to the hog back and city land). I am retired and hope for success as being a fine art painter and a good citizen here in my retirement years. I am doing a series of landscapes of the Rio Arkansas Valley and the Royal Gorge and am currently having a show at McClellan's Restaurant on Main Street. I invite you to come take a look.

I worry that the fate of the land area mentioned, below Skyline, might regress back to motor recreation park. I sure hope not, not only because of the air and audio pollution to the west end of town, but mainly, it would be sending the wrong message -- To use fossil fuel for recreational purposes. This is in bad tasted given the condition of the shortages and all the political concerns -- it should not be encouraged as a toy.

There are plenty of other options available that would benefit the citizens of Cañon City. For example, how about a non motorized course for bicycles and skate boards, a hiking trail, or a picnic area. These would promote fitness, give a positive image and not be a pollutant or an eye sore.

I see now, that there has been a tradition in using this area for motor sports and it might entail some resistance to those who have used this area -- maybe for generations. The users, I'm sure, are not malicious or vandalistic but uninformed and unaware. Unaware of the beauty of this unique formation and how one spinning tire could set a plant back years in its attempt to regain a foothold in that damaged terrain. This area is one of the jewels of Cañon City, to be protected and healed.

There is an old wives tale of a solution to a problem that has been around for a long time pertaining to children who get overly attached to their blankets as a child. Every time the blanket is washed, to cut off 4-5 inches off it and soon, the child will lose interest. Maybe keep squeezing the use area to the point that it is not big enough to have any 'fun' and they will move on to an area that better fits their needs (and ours).

I attended the Town Meeting a few weeks ago to hear what my neighbors think about what may be proposed for this area and intend to get involved. I was happy to see such an enthusiastic turnout.

This letter is motivated by a letter to the editor of The Daily Record that ran yesterday (a copy attached below).

Thank you for your time and it is a privilege to live in such a fine town as Cañon City.

Sincerely,
Charles Hendershott