



Fwd: Follow up to the BOCC meeting 2/25/25

1 message

Jim Chamberlain <jchamberlain@huerfano.us>
To: Carl Young <cyoung@huerfano.us>

Tue, Feb 25, 2025 at 12:06 PM

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From: **Lois Adams** <loisadams@mac.com>
Date: Tue, Feb 25, 2025 at 12:03 PM
Subject: Follow up to the BOCC meeting 2/25/25
To: <jim@huerfano.us>, <karl@huerfano.us>, <mitch@huerfano.us>

2-25-25

To: Huerfano Board of County Commissioners
From: Lois Adams
Re: Cuchara Mountain Park Concessionaire Application

I am writing as a follow up to a letter I sent you on 2/-24-25 regarding the future of the CMP. I attended the BOCC meeting today via internet and listened with interest to the comments being made about the Park. Clearly there are strong differences of opinion and I urge you to move forward slowly and with opportunity for continued community discussion and input.

One observation. Several business people spoke in favor of “restoring the Park” to what it was in the past. However, the Park is NOT what was in the past! 1. There are NO operable lifts. 2. The Forest Service has taken away approval to run lifts on their land and renewing that permission is arduous, takes time and may not even be possible. 3. importantly, the Park is now approximately only 48 acres, not the sprawling property of past. Private owners own a patchwork of properties surrounding the Park making expansive incredibly expensive or more likely impossible. 4. We do not currently have a big bucks entrepreneur poised to sink a fortune into our small park. Even at its best the ski area was hardly a big money maker - ask any of the people who lost their money in it over the years. When it di operate it was subsidized by big business people and even then, believe it was closed more time than it was operating. I remember especially the tent concerts held when Lau owned the place. They were lovely, but seldom sold out, and I doubt they paid for themselves. I know Lau finally gave up not the project and closed down. Given the Park’s current status, trying to “restore it to its past glory” would take millions of dollars with small if any return. Will a new for-profitoperator be a big buck benefactor to accomplish this? 6. Several comments were made about the necessity to “grow,” but no mention made of to where or at what cost to the environment, the culture and the infrastructure. We are a land-limited valley and in our situation growth is not easily possible nor often positive. All things considered, sometimes having something small but special is worth preserving, just ask many of the mountain towns who have outgrown their charm and affordability.

As I reflect on the comments today, I do have to wonder if those who want the past back are keeping in mind that we don’t have the same place or conditions as in the brief, sporadic glory days of the 80's and 90's?

There is no reason why appropriately sized concerts and activities cannot take place on the Park as it exists today and further, no reason why a non-profit given a good strong lease couldn’t provide that. I heartily disagree that putting this public park in private profit-driven hands is good for the people of Huerfano.

You have a difficult decision to make, esteemed Commissioners. May wisdom and grace guide you. Thank you for your service.

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Jim Chamberlain
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