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To: Stephen Giesbrecht <sgiesbrecht@petersburgak.gov>; Stephanie Payne

[spayne@petersburgak.gov](mailto:spayne@petersburgak.gov) Cc: Assembly <assembly@petersburgak.gov>; Parks & Recreation Advisory Board <ParksRecreationAdvisoryBoard@petersburgak.gov>

Subject: Parks and Rec parking lot and safety

It's been a long winter and due to inadequate snow removal at the P&R parking lot I have missed out on my morning workouts and pool for over a month now as neither my rollator or my walking stick can be used to get from my car to the building as it has not been safe to do so. I know it's a gravel parking lot, poorly planned, being worked on, and so forth. But improvements could be considered for now. The lack of handicap parking can easily be remedied by putting up a blue handicap cap sign on the left or right side of the entrance where parking spots already exist. No new spot needs to be designated. The snow removal is done on the sidewalk and main parking lot but not in any of the parking spaces along the facility or the 6-10 feet between signs at the entrance. So even if a spot is open to park near the facility you have to walk thru snow or ice from your car to the sidewalk, or from the cleared main lot to the shoveled sidewalk. The solution this winter seemed to be not to remove it, but to put up safety cones on each side of the entrance? I know this may mean having someone plow or shovel prior to 6am but the public deserves to have safe access to the facility. A friend of mine who is recovering from hip surgery and needs a place to walk, says it has upset him for years that nothing has been done about safe access from the back lot. I have been going to morning activities at P&R for at least 40 years and it seems to have gotten less accessible for the elderly or handicapped folks. Maybe I am noticing it more as I am there now! And also have been dealing with mobility issues the last few years. As our population is aging which seems to bring some challenging health issues, along with new hips, knees, backs and other body parts that need rehab. Being the only facility on the island to be able to swim, walk, and exercise at it is extremely important to have safe access to the facility. The handicap changing/shower room was closed down sometime ago, I know it was due to legitimate issues, but the main dressing rooms are not very handicapped compliant. I am not writing this to you to simply complain, but also offer to be part of the solution. Please let me (and the public) know if we need to address the assembly for more funding, or assistance from other agencies, to ensure safe access and use of our Parks and Rec facility for those in rehab, the mobility challenged and handicapped users in our community. And thank you Stephanie for all that you have done and are continuing to do. There was a big overall improvement when you became director and it was noticed and appreciated by those like me, who have been faithfully coming to the pool and rec center for many years and hoping for many more!

Rexanne Stafford

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