

17 March 2021

Stevenson City Council

Ref: the request to vacate Iman cemetery road and no name road should not be granted

Dear Mayor, Council members, and City administrator,

If I understand what you are being asked to do, two private home owners are asking you to vacate two pieces of Iman Cemetery road, basically the road that runs along the Krug and Doblje property and ends at the confluence of these properties and the short no name road that is the back entrance to the cemetery. I believe I heard in a previous meeting that the Cemetery Board opposes the vacation of the cemetery back entrance, as do I. There should be two entrances to the cemetery. I assume that the requested road vacation would add land and land value to the two private properties.

How does that work if a road vacation basically gives land to private parties? Would they have to pay for the land? Is this a gift and is it even legal to do this?

Although not on your agenda, the Doblje property owners have requested that the City vacate the 50 foot public access to Rock Creek River, a public water of the state of Washington and its citizens. It appears that the Doblje's would benefit from the vacation of this one and only public access point along Rock Creek River. Would they also benefit from the vacation of Iman Cemetery road and no name road, and would they have to pay for all this land? Who evaluates the land value? I oppose the vacation of this public access. The City should protect all public access points to Rock Creek River, for its citizens and others who have a right to access this public water. Trying to put a access on the other bank is not the answer since public access should be from both banks of the river.

There are a lit of questions on these vacation requests. I presume that the home owners knew about the easements, and the public access, and did their due diligence when they purchased these properties.

Caveat emptor seems appropriate.

I know this area because when we had the 2007 landslide up at Piper and in Rock Creek River, Iman Cemetery road was the only way to get to the public access to get to the bank of Rock Creek River to see what was going on with the landslide. **If Iman Cemetery road and no name road are vacated then public access to Rock Creek River would cease to be accessible. This is unacceptable. The public waters of Washington state should be accessible to its citizens and are protected by RCWs and the WACs.**

[Protecting public access to the State's shorelines is one of three major policies of the Shoreline Management Act (SMA). "The public's opportunity to enjoy the physical and aesthetic qualities of natural shorelines of the state shall be preserved to the greatest extent feasible..." [RCW 90.58.020]. The SMA requires Shoreline Master Programs (SMPs) to include a public access element to provide for public access to publicly-owned shorelines and a recreational element to

preserve and enlarge recreational opportunities. [RCW 90.58.100(2)(b)(c)]. Public access to publicly owned shorelines is also a preferred use on shorelines of statewide significance. [RCW 90.58.020(5)(6)]. And WAC 173-26-221(4).]

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

/e-signature/Mary Repar

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