

DOES THE COMMUNITY OF BAYVIEW REALLY WANT 300,000 VISITORS A YEAR?

Memo to: Community of Bayview
From: Pamela Spencer, Bayview resident

As I talk with Bayview residents, it becomes clear that many in our community are not aware of current proposals to make big changes in Bayview. Consider how residents would be impacted and who really benefits from these outlandish proposals? Stream and fish restoration sound good, however, the devil's the details.

At a Bayview Community Council meeting on August 26, 2008, Hobart Jenkins, Dave Bennett and Greg Mauser proposed the Bayview Creek Restoration project. They described a project that included:

- **relocating Bayview Creek to it's original boundaries**
- **restoring Bayview Creek to year-round flows**
- **building a "state-of-the art" aquarium in Bayview, comparable to a facility located in Boise**
- **developing a viewing and fish-trapping facilities for the purpose of restoring Cutthroat Trout and fishing in Lake Pend Oreille**
- **diverting Bayview Creek to flow along 6th Street, removing the existing cement retaining wall and dropping the stream to lake level to allow for natural spawning**
- **building stone, arched bridges in the community to enhance fish viewing for the public**
- **developing a "world-class" attraction that would make Bayview a North Idaho tourist destination, drawing up to 300,000 visitors a year**
- **providing facilities which would draw schools to Bayview for tours of fish in their "natural habitat"**

Now for the details: Restoring Bayview Creek to its original stream bed requires taking the stream away from some private property owners (against their will) and placing it along/through other properties (with/without their consent), potentially destroying at least two residences. ***This is an act of forcefully taking property and property valuation from some and giving it to others!***

These 300,000 visitors a year would swarm through your residential community and along the streets, marching unchecked though private residential properties to view the fish! It would be against the law for residents to restrict public access to the Creek running by/through their private property. The public could stroll through and fish or picnic on your lawn, in your yard and obstruct your residential access.

Restoring Bayview Creek to year-round flow would entail filling and blocking existing underground creek drainage, excavation along streets and private properties, trenching of new stream beds, removal and placement of culverts and construction of arched stone bridges along our single-lane streets. To accomplish this goal a backhoe will march through private properties, against the will of property owners, taking and destroying private property.

Bayview Creek often runs with real force and a number of children fall in each year. There is enough running force at times to drag a small child into the culverts (please supervise your children!). Will Bayview be forced to incorporate and become a city to provide liability insurance? The costs to incorporate are amazing and are paid for by residential and business taxes!

What about parking facilities, public restrooms and grounds required for this vision? There is already very little parking and these 300,000 visitors will, by necessity, park along our residential streets, in your driveway and in front of your house!

In my opinion the proposals are a very bad thing for our Bayview residential community. My husband and I are opposed because we do not want to attract 300,000 visitors a year to the small community in which we live for its beauty and quiet. We do not want a backhoe digging through our property and diverting the creek that runs there. We do not want Bayview to become a designated State-of - Idaho destination!

Some have said: "This is Bayview! It couldn't happen here!" It is a new era and environmental activism has the power to change everything! As outlandish as this proposal seems, word has it that it's "moving along nicely... and they can't stop it". Hobart Jenkins in Bayview Bylines stated they are not looking for funding through the Chamber. They propose public funding by writing a grant.

If they can divert the Creek from its location on our property, could they not take **your** property/house/business for the development high-end lake-view developments (for the "good" of all) via eminent domain?

I understand that businesses in the community might like attracting this kind of year-round volume. But does this meet your vision of why you chose to buy and live in Bayview?

Please talk to your neighbors: together we can provide community feedback to the sponsors and the Chamber regarding these proposals. Give your input!