

March 11, 2014

To: John Stokes, Matt Day

Cc: City Council, Darin Atteberry

From: Save The Poudre

Re: Downtown Poudre River Project

Hello John, Matt, and Darin,

The Save The Poudre Board of Directors would like to take this opportunity to thank you and your staff for your ongoing work rejuvenating the downtown section of the Poudre River, known as the “Poudre River Downtown Project” (Project). As you know from all of our conversations and meetings in the past, Save The Poudre has long championed the restoration and rejuvenation of this area. We firmly believe that the Poudre River is not just a gem for our community, but one of the central defining features of Fort Collins that deserves all of the attention the community and the City is placing on it.

We have been very supportive and pleased with all of the conceptual conversations and statements by the City with regards to this project. We are particularly excited about the proposed instream recreational components as well as the habitat restoration components. Of course, Save The Poudre advocated for the whitewater park from the outset, and we are pleased to see it included as you move forward. We believe there is a path forward here that includes the whitewater and recreational features as part of the project while simultaneously improving not only the instream aquatic habitat – including fish passage – but the habitat qualities of the corridor related to land-based plants and animals. In addition, there’s an opportunity to significantly increase flood mitigation thus completing a trifecta of desired benefits.

All of that said, after carefully examining the images presented at the February 27, 2014 Open House, we want to raise a few serious concerns:

1. We are very concerned about the amount of hard surfaces and cement from College Avenue to just past Linden Street. We never envisioned a river hemmed in by cement and hard, man-made surfaces, and these images are pointing in that direction.
2. We are very concerned about the development on both sides of the river. It was always our interest to keep one side the river (the north and east, in this case) as free from development as possible to allow for wildlife corridors and natural processes to develop.
3. The images depict more of a amusement park-like setting along the river than a more natural area. A comment frequently heard is that people do not want to see

the river corridor become like “Disneyland” and these images, in our view, show things leaning in that direction. We firmly believe that the river corridor should not be developed into a hardscaped amusement park but should be maintained as a more natural area to whatever extent possible, especially on the north side of the river between College Ave. and the BNSF trestle.

Below, we have circled in red the areas of concern.

Rest assured, we are still in support of the overall concept, but we have serious concerns about the images that were displayed at the Open House. We request a meeting with you to discuss our concerns more openly. I will be in touch with you to arrange that meeting.

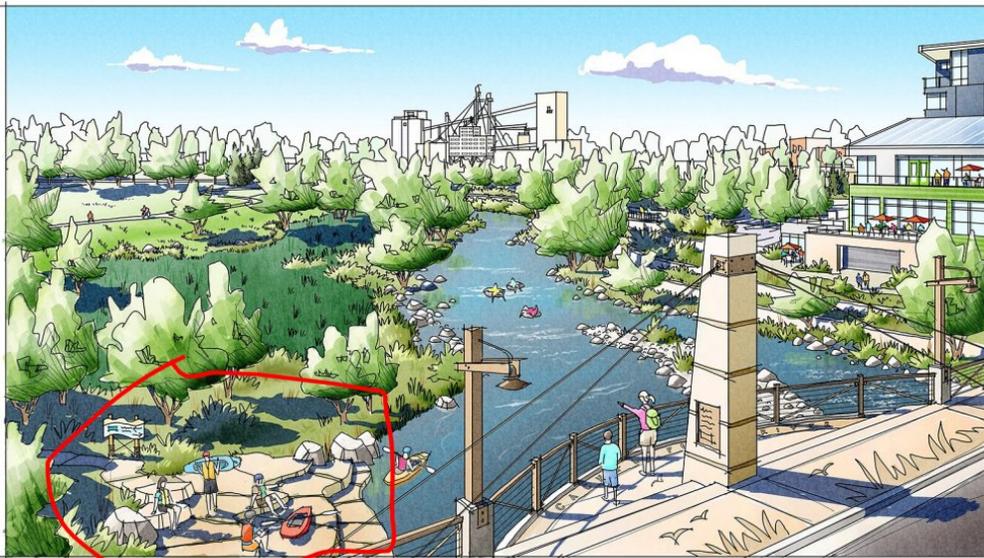
Thank you for considering our comments and request.

Best regards,



Greg Speer
Secretary, Board of Directors, Save The Poudre

Linden St to Lincoln Ave



College Ave to BNSFRR

