

From: Greg Speer
Sent: Thursday, October 02, 2014 9:26 AM
To: cityleaders@fcgov.com
Subject: Save The Poudre endorsement for Kayak Park
Greetings Council and Darin Atteberry,

As you may recall, when the City released the initial draft of the master plan for the downtown river project, I on behalf of Save The Poudre, corresponded with you regarding our concerns with what appeared to be excessive hardscaping along the reach where the proposed kayak park would be built. Because of those concerns, and even though we have long been strong advocates for a kayak park, Save The Poudre was not comfortable with enthusiastically endorsing the project as described in that first draft. Apparently quite a few other people had similar misgivings.

Since then, much has changed. Several members of our Board met with John Stokes and his team to express our concerns which they clearly took to heart. John met with the various pertinent Advisory Boards for feedback and the City held open houses for public feedback. John also heard from Council members at the work session this summer regarding their input from citizens concerned about the hardscaping. To the credit of John and his team they went back to the drawing board and did their due diligence which is now reflected in the updated Poudre River Master Plan.

The Save The Poudre Board has reviewed the updated plan and feels that we can now provide our wholehearted endorsement of the project. The sweet spot for this complex project wherein recreational features, habitat improvement, and decreased flood risk are all accomplished is quite small. We feel that John and his team including, of course, Parks, and Stormwater, have successfully hit the bull's eye and for this reason Save The Poudre would like to strongly urge Council to fund the kayak park to the maximum extent possible. This will be good for both the river, currently severely blighted in this reach, and the citizens. To not do so would possibly result in the park never being built and to miss out on the \$1,000,000 funding pledge from the Poudre Whitewater Park group whose efforts towards seeing a kayak park come to fruition are to be commended.

Thank you for considering our recommendation.

Best Regards.
Greg Speer
Secretary, Board of Directors, Save The Poudre: Poudre Waterkeeper