

September 21, 2020

Dear Village Council Members,

On the agenda for September 21, 2020 is the proposal from Paddle Antrim regarding the proposed kayak launch in Rotary Park. I have kayaked out of the existing launch for almost 20 years and support enhancing the site. In fact, when I first heard of the plan, I did not sense a need to even review it. It was quite by accident that I was in the Village Offices where the plan was displayed when I saw that the kayak launch plan included a bike trail and a proposed boardwalk under the highway for access to downtown. This plan was introduced three days after the Council approved the In Town Bike trail route. This bike route was not mentioned when the in town route was discussed and voted on. I called the Village and the Tart Trail organization and both said that they had no knowledge of the Paddle Antrim plan. In light of this, I think it is prudent to consider approving the kayak launch part of this proposal and delaying the discussion and vote on the bike trail and the underpass. It would seem to make sense then to discuss the entire route the bike trail might take thru the Village and not consider this in phases. Now we might end up with a bike route on River St and Dexter St. if efforts are not coordinated. It is my understanding that input for this plan only involved a small group of people. Does this meet the standard stated in the Elk Rapids Public Participation Plan?

Also on the agenda is a discussion of the Elk Rapids District Library. I am not sure of the direction that this discussion will take but I have a few comments. The Council president was scheduled to speak at a special Library meeting in early August and he did not show up. Again, he and the Village Manager were on the agenda for the September 10 meeting and the agenda was amended to remove them as speakers. What was the intent of our leadership in approaching the Library board at this time? Please in your discussion of this issue keep in mind the intent of the deed from Katherine Dexter McCormick and also the comments of Liz Atkinson representing Milton Twp. and the responsibilities of elected officials to the taxpayers who support the ERDL to the tune of \$330,000+ per year now and most likely will be greater with the expansion plans.

Thank you for your service to our community!

Regards,

Dianne Richter