

From: Zellers, Ledell
Sent: Monday, September 01, 2014 8:24 PM
To: Wallner, David; edjepsen@tds.net; Frautschi, Grant; Clausius, Joseph
Cc: Rutledge, Kay; Sturm, Michael
Subject: Parks - Long Range Planning Subcommittee agenda item V-A

Dear Parks - Long Range Planning Subcommittee members,

I am unable to come to your meeting this Wednesday Sept 3 due to conflicting meetings. However, I am interested in agenda item V-A concerning slacklining. I have learned that this is a sport of interest to constituents and other park users. It tends to be a relatively safe sport to the participant since the line is typically about 2 feet from the ground. It is also good exercise, including core strengthening and a balance workout. I urge you to be open to this new sport and look for ways to accommodate it in our parks with due consideration for the health of our trees and overall safety. One option that has been suggested is to repurpose ash trees as slackline anchors due their coming sad demise due to EAB . I have attached a suggested rewording of the resolution (much of the content submitted to you previously) to be a more positive approach to consideration of slacklining...and have changed the goal for installing slacklining options to the 2015 summer season since the 2014 summer season has passed without action.

Thank you for your kind consideration.
Sincerely,

Alder Ledell Zellers
608 417 9521

Title

Slacklining in Parks and on Public Property

Body

WHEREAS, Slacklining involves individuals balancing on a partially tensioned rope between two fixed anchor points; and

WHEREAS, Slacklining is an activity that contributes to the fitness of residents; and

WHEREAS, Slacklining is a way to contribute to the city's placemaking goals and is an excellent example of "faster, quicker, cheaper"; and

WHEREAS, Slacklining has become more commonly observed in the Parks system with most instances including the line being attached to trees; and

WHEREAS, the City Risk Manager and Parks staff have concerns about the safety of participants and other park users; and

WHEREAS, Parks and Forestry staff are concerned about the impact on the trees in parks being used as anchor points; and

WHEREAS, the typical height of the slackline being approximately 2 feet from the ground minimizes danger to the user; and

WHEREAS, there are means to protect trees when used as anchor points and there are other approaches to providing anchor points; and

WHEREAS, Parks staff recognizes that this issue requires further study and policy consideration.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Park Commissioners refers the issue of Slacklining in Parks and on Public Property to the Habitat Stewardship Subcommittee and the Long Range Planning Subcommittee for review and policy recommendations back to the Board of Park Commissioners.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that places be identified in our parks appropriate for installing slacklining options for the 2015 summer parks season.