

Pamela S. Ulmer

From: HarrisonburgVA.gov via HarrisonburgVA.gov <noreply@harrisonburgva.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 25, 2023 5:22 PM
To: Pamela S. Ulmer
Subject: Form submission from: Agenda Comment Form

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Submitted on: Tuesday, April 25, 2023 - 5:21pm

Name: Jeremiah Jenkins
Type of Meeting: Harrisonburg City Council
Date of Meeting: Tue, 04/25/2023
Agenda Item Number: 8A
Comment:
Jeremiah Jenkins
449 West Bruce Street

Last week, I was disheartened and alarmed to learn that Harrisonburg Parks & Recreation had decided to move forward with a skate park re-design and re-build using METAL ramps and obstacles. This is an extremely unwise approach to skate park design. It is out of touch with the needs and desires of the local skateboarding community, and it is far below the industry standard for municipal skateparks in the last 15+ years.

It is very frustrating to think that good funds (a \$475,000 grant) could be thrown away on a design that I practically consider to be a scam. There are companies out there making money off of the ignorance of well-meaning municipal staff and community groups; providing sub-standard or poor park design and construction. Harrisonburg should not be one of these communities to be ripped off like this. Sadly, as I write this, I am afraid we may too late to stop such a serious blunder. I STRONGLY recommend that Harrisonburg Parks & Recreation rescind any preliminary contract and instead invest some more time exploring better (CONCRETE) design for our new skate park.

I am 46 years old and have skated for the past 40 years. I have led Skate Camps at Westover Park and taught dozens of our kids how to skate. I have skated at parks throughout the U.S. for the last 25 years. There are municipalities that have done very well with their park designs and builds, i.e. Bedford, Front Royal, VA Beach, Charlottesville, etc. I know that there are not enough funds to build a huge, dream park in Harrisonburg. I also know that we can do a lot with concrete for \$475,000 and that the metal ramps are a waste of the money.

Metal ramps are LOUD...Much louder than concrete and the composite ramps we've had at Westover. Metal ramps are HOT...You can sear your skin in a split second on a metal ramp. Skateboarding involves falling so there is high probability that patrons would be injuring themselves with burns on metal ramps. I have been burned by metal ramps. It is a liability that will keep people from skating on hot days because it is DANGEROUS to ride metal ramps. Metal ramps become very SLICK when they are hot. This increases the likelihood of serious fall and injuries.

Harrisonburg has a strong community of skateboarders of all ages, from kids to college students to old dudes like me. It would be a waste of money to go with a metal skatepark. It would also be an affront to those in our community that prefer to recreate at the skate park. It would be a retrograde and out-of-touch decision to go with metal. I know that there are park design options in CONCRETE that we can afford with the grant.

PLEASE DO NOT PUT A METAL SKATE PARK AT WESTOVER. It will brake my heart to see the City make such an ill-advised decision with those funds. PLEASE instead build us the best dang concrete park \$475,000 can buy.

THANK YOU

Contact: Yes

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Pamela S. Ulmer

From: HarrisonburgVA.gov via HarrisonburgVA.gov <noreply@harrisonburgva.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 25, 2023 7:48 PM
To: Pamela S. Ulmer
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WARNING: This email was sent from outside of your organization.

Submitted on: Tuesday, April 25, 2023 - 7:47pm

Name: Derek Hess

Type of Meeting: Harrisonburg City Council

Date of Meeting: Tue, 04/25/2023

Agenda Item Number: 6g

Comment:

I'm a board member and volunteer with Big Brothers Big Sisters. I want to emphasize that we are still entering into an unknown world post covid, especially when it comes to how it has affected local youth's mental health and ability to thrive. Big Brothers Big Sisters' one-to-one mentoring services are a valuable resource for parents and youth struggling to readjust to our new world, yet the organization has been recommended for a budget cut. I'd like to voice my support for the organization and their mission to receive maintained or increased funding allocation in the FY24 budget, during this critical time for youth.

Contact: No

Contact Info: