

April 4, 2008

VIA EMAIL AND
REGULAR MAIL
citydesk@dailychronicle.com

Editor, Bozeman Daily Chronicle,
P.O. Box 1188
Bozeman, MT 59771

Re: Gallatin Regional Park

Dear Editor:

I am writing to clarify for your readers why Baxter Meadows Development, L.P. filed suit against Gallatin County with respect to the Regional Park. We want the Regional Park to remain a park, which should solely be used for recreation.

We fully support the 911 Center/Fire Station and several times asked for meetings to discuss other options that did not violate the Regional Park Agreement. We were both ignored by the City and told by the County that they had “no interest in a meeting” with us.

The County is completely disregarding the agreement it made with Baxter in 2002 when the County acquired the land for the park. This agreement required the County to record a non-revocable covenant that the land would only be used in perpetuity for a public park, with an additional use allowed for a non-profit recreational facility such as a YMCA.

The bottom line is, Baxter wants to make certain that the Regional Park stays a park. If the County can carve out and sell a few acres to the City for a fire station and 911 center, what stops the County from carving 10 or 20 more acres out of the Regional Park for a garbage transfer station or even a jail?

It's a shame that with all of the community's hard work making the Regional Park a reality, the County decided it would rather compromise the original vision of the Park and develop it for governmental purposes.

I do not want the Regional Park at Baxter Meadows “back” so long as the County agrees to abide by its original agreement and maintain it as a park. I want it to be the jewel that the original FOR Parks people and I envisioned.

I also think the headline for your article should have read, “Developer Sues to Protect Integrity of Regional Park” because that is what Baxter is doing in this situation.

More info is available at www.baxtermeadows.com.

Respectfully,

Jerry Williams