

From: Betsy Mitchell
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2023 3:55 PM
To: City Commission <citycommission@livingstonmontana.org>
Subject: Community Wellness Center

Dear City Commissioners,

I would like to comment on your upcoming vote regarding the location of the proposed Wellness Center. I support the idea of a Wellness Center (WC), but maybe a slightly smaller version than what I've seen proposed.

However, my primary comment has to do with the location you will be voting on tomorrow. **Please, do NOT select the Civic Center site for the Wellness Center.**

Sacajawea Park is iconic, and out of town guests have described it to us as "a treasure." I walk or bicycle through Sacajawea to the Civic Center and beyond many times a week. I have seen the park in all seasons and times of day. To build a large facility adjacent to the park would be a horrible mistake.

The WC will be a community facility used by many, which will result in a significant increase in traffic on all the streets leading to the center. Even now, depending on the season, there is congestion in the park at times. The wildlife- mostly birds, but an amazing number of small mammals as well- will be affected by increased traffic through the park. There are many residents of this city who take delight in going to the park just to feed the geese or to sit on a bench and take in the view, not to mention the many dog walkers and "just walkers" who enjoy the levee trail. **When considering the Civic Center site, the increased traffic through the park must be taken into account.** Also, as Livingston continues to grow on the north, maybe it would be nice to place the WC on that side so that our citizens on the north don't always have to travel across the tracks for everything.

Maybe my frequent use of the park makes me protective of this "treasure." But I strongly believe that building the WC at the Civic Center location would adversely alter our park forever, and as we know, there will be no going back.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Elizabeth Mitchell