

January 28, 2022

Mayor Jack Bradley
Members of City Council Beth Henley and Victoria Kempton
Safety/Service Director Sanford Washington
200 W Erie Avenue - 7th Floor
Lorain, OH 44052

Dear Mayor Bradley, Mr Washington, Ms Henley and Ms Kempton

I learned recently of the proposal to turn Lorain's Cromwell Park into a go-kart track with the possibility of later adding a hotel to the site. I recognize how important a decision it is for city officials to decide how best to repurpose this land and I wanted to offer up some other possibilities.

I am a family physician, President of the Kirtland Bird Club of Northeast Ohio, a member of the Cleveland Parks & Greenspace Coalition, and a graduate of Neighborhood Leadership Cleveland.

As a family physician, I know that individuals and communities benefit from healthy and health-promoting environments. People thrive when they have access to safe green space – there's less depression, less anxiety, and less violence to name but a few of the benefits. On a personal level, throughout my career I have found bird watching to be a great way to replenish my emotional reserves.

As a member of the Cleveland Parks & Greenspace Coalition, I have seen that the best projects come together when neighbors and other stakeholders come together to help create park space. The CHEERS project (Cleveland Harbor Eastern Embayment Resilience Study) is an example of that. The plan brought together Cleveland Metroparks, Port of Cleveland, ODOT, US Fish & Wildlife, the City of Cleveland, and community stakeholders to work jointly on their needs. The plan was developed in response to a need to buffer I-90 from Lake Erie especially during storms, to bring economic development to a marginalized neighborhood, to increase resident access to green space and the lakefront, and to improve aquatic and lakefront habitat for fish and wildlife. Parks make communities more desirable and properties more valuable.

Through my participation in Cleveland Parks & Greenspace Coalition, I have seen examples of what great things can happen with community involvement and an openness to innovation and big ideas.

Through my participation in Neighborhood Leadership Cleveland, a free 18 week leadership development program run by Neighborhood Leadership Institute in Cleveland's Slavic Village, I have seen the value and solutions that passionate individuals and groups of neighbors can bring to their neighborhoods.

Lastly, through my experience watching birds, I have learned how important it is to preserve natural areas and the birds that depend on the trees, smaller plants, insects, and a toxin-free environment – and that the benefit is not just for the birds, but for us humans and our planet.

Though I am not a resident of Lorain, I am writing in the hopes that Lorain will take a step back and look at a range of visions for the park – especially those that maintain or improve green space for humans and habitat for birds and other native wildlife. I am happy to provide contact information for individuals in the Cleveland area who have worked through some of the transformative greenspace projects in our

area. I have also attached a list of videos and websites that show creative and transformative approaches to land use that bring value to communities.

Thank you for your attention, and best of luck with your land use decision.

Sincerely,

Patricia Kellner, MD
South Euclid, Ohio