

**Subject: Waterfront Public Access – Panorama DriveRoad Allowance**

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Mayor & Council:

With respect to agenda item #6 Waterfront Public Access – Panorama Drive Road Allowance, I fully support the staff recommendation to proceed with opening the Panorama Drive road allowance for public waterfront access, at a reassessed cost of \$80,000. It is important to note that the \$80,000 figure matches the accumulated funds left over from previous budgets designated for increased waterfront access. For many years this road allowance has been identified as a prime waterfront access opportunity offering a dramatic view of Indian Arm. Making it accessible to the public by spending the money previously budgeted for this purpose is long overdue.

On the issue of the Lowry Lane property, it concerns me that the staff report indicates that \$125,000 is required to:

- Clear, grub, and dispose of existing material on site
- Grading, drainage, imported topsoil and seed
- Donated memorial benches
- Signage
- An option for 5 parking stalls

This estimated cost for the above work seems more than excessive for what is a relatively small (it would amount to a "pocket park"), readily accessible property with a limited grade.

When this item was last discussed by Council on August 29, there was a general agreement of the need to clean-up the site, spread new topsoil, plant some grass and add a couple of picnic tables and/or donated memorial benches. A crew of five working in a week with a backhoe, disposal bins for removal of existing material and new topsoil delivered on site, could surely not cost more \$10,000 (even that price seems high).

Obviously the scope of the work being envisioned by staff for the Lowry Lane property is far greater than what most people expect. But is it really needed? My concern is that some people might see the proposed \$125,000 price tag and then use this excessive cost estimate as an excuse to sell the property. I can only hope that sort of limited short-term thinking does not prevail.

Sincerely,  
Brian Platts  
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