

Bobbie Walthall

To: Mark Thiel
Subject: RE: urban slide support

From: ray wheat [<mailto:kswheat@msn.com>]
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2015 9:11 PM
To: Mark Thiel
Subject: urban slide support

I received a postcard in the mail today detailing tomorrow's city commission agenda. As a Lawrence resident whose neighborhood will be greatly impacted I would like to express my support of the urban slide. I support this community event. I am a girl scout leader and my whole troop has bought tickets to attend. I feel it is a positive community gathering.

Bobbie Walthall

To: Mark Thiel
Subject: RE: Urban Water Slide Road Closure (07-27-15)

-----Original Message-----

From: Street, Dr. Alan [<mailto:dastreet@ku.edu>]
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2015 5:33 PM
To: Mark Thiel
Cc: Street, Dr. Alan
Subject: Urban Water Slide Road Closure (07-27-15)

Dear Mr Thiel,

Further to our telephone conversation this afternoon, I write to express my firm opposition to the intended closure of George Williams Way on 08/08-09/2015 for the purposes of permitting a recreational enterprise to be installed for private commercial gain. Local residents have been given little time to voice their opinions about this event: information cards were not delivered to Longleaf homes until 07/24 despite the notice being dated 07/14. The ongoing K-10 roadworks have already exacted sufficient imposition without concern for those living and working in close proximity to the various construction activities that now reach back to October 2014. How this event -- with no stipulated indication as to its likely impact on traffic management or noise levels -- is meant to fit with the domestic needs of local residents is simply beyond any reasonable reckoning. Further, how and why has the City of Lawrence Public Works Department allowed itself to become the apologist for a money-making scheme that offers nothing other than inconvenience and nuisance for already hard-pressed (and of course tax paying) Lawrence citizens who deserve fair consideration, yet seem to be treated as an irrelevance in the face of larger, and faceless economic interests? The City has designated large spaces for public gatherings such as this: the promoters must be made aware of this fact and obliged to plan accordingly rather than seeking to override existing protocols for the sake of mere convenience.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Alan Street

Longleaf Circle
Lawrence

Bobbie Walthall

To: Diane Stoddard
Subject: RE: Concerns Regarding Proposed Urban Slide Event, 8-9 August on George Williams Way

From: Barbara Burket [<mailto:barbaraburket@me.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2015 8:32 AM

To: Michael Kelly

Cc: Jeremy Farmer; Leslie Soden; Mike Amyx; Stuart Boley; Jackie Mickel; Matthew Herbert; Diane Stoddard; Megan Gilliland; Charles Soules; Mark Bradford; Mark Thiel; info@gosilverback.com; clawhorn@ljworld.com; Ann Gardner; Julie Boyle; rdoll@usd497.org; Tarik Khatib; ryan@gosilverback.com; Jennifer McCall; myersjennifer123@gmail.com; Sarah Hoskinson; Randy Glidewell; Angel Nuzum; Amy Weishaar; Amy Phalen; Jenn Hethcoat; Kristie Bowen; Pittman Karl/Carol; carolinejackson@stephensre.com; Georgiana Beverly; Diane Kelly; Jack Kelly; Shannon Kimball; Kris Adair; Kim Rack; Diane Vigna; Jeff Hoffman

Subject: Re: Concerns Regarding Proposed Urban Slide Event, 8-9 August on George Williams Way

I think having the slide north of 6th street is a good solution and a good use of RockChalk Park.

Thx, Barbara Burket
6201 Palisades

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 25, 2015, at 1:51 PM, Michael Kelly <job4mike6@aol.com> wrote:

Mr. Mayor, Commisioners, Chief Bradford, Chief Khatib, City Staff Members, School District Staff Members and Neighbors-

I request City Commission consideration of this permit be removed from the consent agenda and placed on the regular agenda.

I understand a local business, Silverback Enterprises, has requested a permit to close a portion of George Williams Way for 48 hours to set up large water slide in the right-of-way, conduct a recreational event, and remove the water slide. Event parking is planned for neighborhood streets and Langston Hughes Elementary School.

Below is an image of one side of the postcard notice sent to nearby property owners. Sadly, this side of the postcard looks like junk mail and not an official city notice. For Ms. Stoddard and Ms. Gilliland: Suggest in the future official communications containing time-urgent city notifications look more formal on both sides of the postcard and less like direct mail marketing.

I do like the idea of the city supporting local businesses in innovative ways. That's good public policy.

However, I have a large number of reservations about this permit and event that City Staff and USD 497 Staff should be prepared to address at Tuesday's meeting.

- In Silverback’s business and marketing plan, how many cars and attendees are expected to attend, given ideal weather conditions? I’m not persuaded by Silverback’s claim stated in Ryan Robinson’s e-mail to the Principal of Langston Hughes that most participants will reside in the surrounding neighborhood and walk to the event. In any case, Silverback’s stated hope is not sufficient basis to approve this permit without further review of the potential number of cars and participants.
- With the proposed closure of George Williams Way for this event and the ongoing Bob Billings Parkway and George Williams Way intersection improvement project, traffic access to the event will possibly create greatly increased traffic density on nearby residential streets, namely West Harvard Road, April Rain Road, Stoneridge Drive, and Longleaf Drive. For Chief Bradford and Chief Khatib: during this event will unusually high traffic density, the street closure and the impairment of Bob Billings Drive and George Williams Way intersection create unacceptable emergency response times to the Diamondhead, Langston Heights, and Cove subdivisions west of George Williams Way or the Fox Chase south subdivisions along West Harvard Road? Other far west Lawrence emergency services may be impaired —please confirm these potential impairments pose acceptable risk?
- For the school district staff: Have sufficient arrangements been made with Silverback to indemnify the school district for any damage caused by “overflow” parking on grass playground surfaces? Will Silverback arrange for trash containers and litter pick up in the parking lot at Langston Hughes Elementary School and elsewhere on school grounds following the event ? Will Silverback have a security monitor present during the operating hours of the event to respond and minimize any parking lot disputes that might arise and to deter vandalism of school grounds?
- Are available police resources scheduled for more intense traffic management and patrolling to deter disorderly conduct during the event?
- What food or beverage vendors are permitted during the event? Where will these vendors, if any, be located? Will Silverback serve food and beverages rather than other vendors? What other sponsored activities will occur in conjunction with this event? Do these other sponsored activities require a Transient Merchant License permit?
- By city ordinance transient merchants are not permitted to conduct business in residential districts past 8 p.m. The urban slide will operate until 10 p.m. on Saturday night per the urban slide web site. Does the city commission believe this is acceptable exception to the city ordinance?
- Will Silverback provide any portable toilet facilities and trash containers? Where will such facilities be located?
- What will be the expected noise impacts of the staging, set-up, take-down and removal of the urban slide structure and associated event equipment?
- What time of day or night will the staging, set-up, take-down and removal of event structures take place?
- Will there be photometric impacts, amplified music, or a public address system in use throughout the event or will any public address system be used only infrequently for event management and public safety?
- What is the parking contingency plan if Langston Hughes property is insufficient? FYI: There are roughly 90 marked parking spaces in the LHES lot.
- What is the contingency for high winds? What is the safety limit for the water slide structure in high wind conditions? Under what other weather conditions such as lightning, rain, or severe weather warnings will the slide be closed or use suspended? See this YouTube news report with photographs and animation of an unfortunate wind-related incident: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Ymr1u0l4ho>

- Does Silverback have insurance sufficient to address claims by nearby property owners should the urban slide equipment become airborne in high winds, strike nearby structures and cause damage?
- Will the mooring of the urban slide structure to the ground damage city right of way and will Silverback agree to repair (or provide compensation for) any damage to city right-of-way caused in such staging, set-up, operation, take-down and removal of the the urban slide structure?
- On the west side of George Williams there are roughly a dozen duplex townhomes with Coving Drive addresses separated from the public right-of-way by a berm and other landscaping features. There is no fence. How does Silverback propose to control event patrons and prevent trespassing on these Coving Drive properties? This circumstance impacts over 20 families. There are fences for the properties on the east side of George Williams Way so trespassing there is more difficult.

<2015-07-25 11-13-39.pdf>

Thank you for your attention to these concerns and I look forward to careful deliberations at the City Commission on Tuesday evening.

Best wishes,

Mike Kelly
1123 Brynwood Court and landlord for 880 Coving Drive

Bobbie Walthall

To: Mark Thiel
Subject: RE: Urban Slide - Gee torres

From: gee torres [<mailto:ghtorres52@gmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2015 5:08 PM
To: Mark Thiel
Cc: matthewherbert@gmail.com; Stuart Boley; Mike Amyx; Leslie Soden; Jeremy Farmer
Subject: Urban Slide - Gee torres

Dear Mr. Thiel,

This email is in regard to the Urban Slide planned for August 8th and 9th on George Williams Way. I do oppose this playground on a public street for the following reasons: 1) The slide would create difficulties for those residents living nearby, 2) the parking conditions would be quite disruptive to several neighborhoods, and 3) the quantity of water used and later sent through the park nearby would be wasteful and possibly dangerous to the park's integrity.

While the youngsters of this community do deserve fun things to do (and there are plenty available), this is "over the top!" I would also like to know what the company installing the slide will charge people using the slide and how much of that will go to the City. If the City plans to receive a "profit" from this, it should go to local charities helping the disadvantaged and poor of this fair city! Keep in mind, I do applaud the Public Works Department for its continued improvements our city streets!

Sincerely, Georgiana Torres, resident, Longleaf Townhomes Association

Bobbie Walthall

From: Eric Boedeker <eboedeker@gcsaa.org>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2015 9:12 AM
To: Gwendolyn Klingenberg; pearlyque.co@gmail.com; ; donherbel@att.net; ; dustin@freshsound.com; markc@ku.edu; shubhshar@gmail.com; katlinc_1@yahoo.com; pentom.cheng@gmail.com; sumvou@yahoo.com; eclifton@ku.edu; ; mattgudenkauf@gmail.com; ; mwhittlesey@ku.edu; markandsheri; Carol; Bob Zeller; Ryan Fike; Don Herbel; Mark Christesen; thepitts@sunflower.com; Linda Herbel; Eric Boedeker; ahanna356@gmail.com; Dustin S; Tiffany Fike; shubhshar@gmail.com; b schnitker; Dennis Tate; Matt Gudenkauf; nate@lawrencewesleyan.com; Lew Hanna; Erica Gudenkauf; tbateman@rdje.com; Andrew Pitts; ; dltate@sunflower.com; ; tiffanyfike@gmail.com; siafar57@yahoo.com; ; ; vwedman@sbcglobal.net; jlorer@sunflower.com; ; jenniferlmccall@yahoo.com; martha_garnica@payless.com; ; ahanna356@gmail.com; clroesler@sunflower.com; rgpeason@hotmail.com; deanna917@att.net; lhenderson019@gmail.com; hdfllf@yahoo.com; psthapa71@gmail.com; tommythompson785@gmail.com; cathomas42@gmail.com; irit100@hotmail.com; judge_julie_robinson@ksd.uscourts.gov; ; mgranrt@ku.edu; xbi@ku.edu; spekusic@hotmail.com; celheintz@hotmail.com; ; mcsparky45@yahoo.com; falconn21@aol.com; ; jgfox@sunflower.com; dreilings@sunflower.com; thepitts@sunflower.com; MichelleHack@askmcgrew.com; bellabebe@sunflower.com; abzlalawrence@gmail.com; ; creinardy@ku.edu; careinardy@gmail.com; ecburr@sbcglobal.net; vlaing@sunflower.com; juswilk@gmail.com; dnovacek@att.net; gary_stj@hotmail.com; bweber123@att.net; melgoin@yahoo.com; cdrolf@gmail.com; conniejerryrockers@att.net; gedieker@yahoo.com; sdengelb@hotmail.com; Scott McCullough; Sandra Day; Diane Stoddard; Bobbie Walthall; voteyourselfafarmer@gmail.com; Leslie Soden; Mike Amyx; Stuart Boley; Matthew Herbert; BobDennSan@gmail.com; Bambi Boedeker
Subject: Re: DiamondHead Neighborhood

Gwendolyn and City Commissioners, I wanted to take a moment and ask a few questions in regards to the traffic and parking logistics for this event prior to the permit being issued.

Currently George Williams is closed to the south due to construction. If it is also closed to the north for the event, that will mean no arterials road access, only residential streets (Harvard & Longleaf) – which I believe is in conflict with city code, though that may be from a planning perspective and not for an event permit. We heard from Tim Bateman that the intersection would be open this week. I am not familiar with Mr Bateman and do not know his relation to the city or the construction project, but if he is correct, this will not be an issue for the event. Would like to have official word from the city on this.

The second question regards neighborhood access. The event will block Ken Ridge Drive leaving the only access to Diamondhead Neighborhood and Langston Heights through Diamondhead Drive. If I recall, city code states there must be 2 access points to any neighborhood. Again, this may not be an issue for a temporary permit, but would like some clarity.

The third question is perhaps the most important, and that is parking. The event organizers plan to use Langston Hughes Elementary. Undoubtedly this will fill rather quickly and the parking will spill onto adjacent streets. As we know from school drop off and pickup, this becomes a significant issue for access and traffic flow as cars line both sides of the street. At least in those cases, it only lasts for 20 minutes or so – not the two days planned here.

This creates an environment where traffic must be one way or one at a time as vehicles can not pass as they normally would. It also means that emergency vehicles would not be able to access the neighborhood, and that does pose a significant problem for the residents.

We ask that temporary signs are placed restricting parking to one side of the street for all streets in the adjacent neighborhood and that violators will be towed. We also ask for an enforcement mechanism where residents are able to notify appropriate parties of any violators. I believe this will work to the satisfaction of the residents without putting the event itself in jeopardy.

I am all for the Urban Waterslide, and hope the event does happen as planned. It is this kind of unique event that makes Lawrence a great place to live and work. But we do need some help in terms of planning for this event. Hosting something like this in a residential neighborhood that already faces access issues means we'll all have to work together to find some solutions.

Thank you,
Eric Boedeker
Diamondhead Resident

From: Gwendolyn Klingenberg

Date: Saturday, July 18, 2015 at 4:29 PM

To: "pearlyque.co@gmail.com", "; donherbel@att.net", "; dustin@freshsound.com", "markc@ku.edu", "shubhshar@gmail.com", "katlinc_1@yahoo.com", "pentom.cheng@gmail.com", "sumvou@yahoo.com", "eclifton@ku.edu", "; mattgudenkauf@gmail.com", "; mwhittlesey@ku.edu", "; dltate@sunflower.com", "; tiffanyfike@gmail.com", "siafar57@yahoo.com", ";", ";", "vwedman@sbcglobal.net", "jlorer@sunflower.com", ";", "jenniferlmccall@yahoo.com", "martha_garnica@payless.com", ";", "ahanna356@gmail.com", "clroesler@sunflower.com", "rgpeason@hotmail.com", "deanna917@att.net", "lhenderson019@gmail.com", "hdfllf@yahoo.com", "psthapa71@gmail.com", "tommythompson785@gmail.com", "cathomas42@gmail.com", "irit100@hotmail.com", "judge_julie_robinson@ksd.uscourts.gov", ";", "mgranrt@ku.edu", "xbi@ku.edu", "spekusic@hotmail.com", "celheintz@hotmail.com", ";", "mcsparky45@yahoo.com", "falconn21@aol.com", ";", "jgfox@sunflower.com", "dreilings@sunflower.com", "thepitts@sunflower.com", "MichelleHack@askmcgrew.com", "bellabebe@sunflower.com", "abzlawrence@gmail.com", ";", "creinardy@ku.edu", "careinardy@gmail.com", "ecburr@sbcglobal.net", Eric Boedeker, "vlaing@sunflower.com", "juswilk@gmail.com", "dnovacek@att.net", "gary_stj@hotmail.com", "bweber123@att.net", "melgoin@yahoo.com", "cdrolf@gmail.com", "conniejerryrockers@att.net", "gedieker@yahoo.com", "sdengelb@hotmail.com"

Subject: DiamondHead Neighborhood

To all who live in the Diamondhead neighborhood;

Please let me know if you no longer live at Diamondhead or in the West Lawrence Neighborhood Association. (West city limits, 6th, Wakarusa and Bob Billings Way). I will remove your name from the list.

August 8-9 there will be a waterslide event that will close George William Way north of the Harvard and GWW roundabout.

The waterslide will be constructed Saturday morning after 4:00am and taken down Sunday night. You will have access to and from your homes via Diamondhead. There are no loud machines used to setup the event.

There is a flyer from the event contact (Silverback: theurbanslide.com) Ryan Robinson (ryan@gosilverback.com) due in your mailbox on Monday.

The traffic concerns are being handled as we speak. There is a plan, but it has not been presented to the city. I will provide it on the WLNA new and under construction website wlawrencena.org.

The traffic is expected to use Bob Billings Way to GWW and use the school parking lot. Some of the fund will

go to Langston Hughes school.

I am in contact with Ryan and The city's Assistant Public Works Director - Mark Thiel (mthiel@lawrenceks.org).

Please ask me any questions or contact Ryan and/or Mark.

Please address an email to Mark Thiel of any concerns you wish the City Commission to know or address at the July 28th meeting. If the applicant has not been able to address all the city requirements the meeting may be held one week until August 4.

The WLNA website will have the City Commission date once we have that information.

Thank you for your time;

Gwendolyn Leible-Klingenberg, PhD Candidate, MSM,
Member: Golden Key International, Delta Mu Delta, ELGL, ASPA, NCoC, NAPW, AAUW
WLNA Co-Chair
Round Table Lawrence - Executive Director
4900 Colonial Way
Lawrence, Ks. 66049
785-393-4845
glklingenberg@live.com
roundtablelawrence@yahoo.com

When residents take an active interest in government's activities, that interest tends to build a more sustainable, livable community. GLK

RTL building bridges between the public and the city leaders. GLK

A community cannot be successful if their local government ignores their constituents. GLK

Economic Development is a "public policy solution" to creates wealth for the community (D. Robinson, 2014). A community's Economic Development cannot be everything to everybody (D. Robinson, 2014). Quality of life (safe, diverse, and strong neighborhoods, decent wage median, cultural and arts recreation, great schools, affordable quality workforce housing, great healthcare, low crime and productive neighborhoods) is a mainstay in any business decision to expand, relocate, or stay in a community (Leigh & Blakely, 2014; Robinson, 2014).

Government cannot effectively or efficiently operate without input from citizens and citizens must take the time and effort to become involved in their government, no matter the cost. Xenophon by J. O'Flannery (2003).

Citizens must be involved, educated, and consulted in decision making process. Xenophon by J. O'Flannery (2003).

There is a need for "backstage battles" in order to protect "frontstage participatory processes": O. Escobar (2013).

Bobbie Walthall

To: Mark Thiel
Subject: RE: August 8-9, 2015 George Williams Way Closure for Urban Water Slide

From: Michael Williams <michael.williams2655@gmail.com>
Date: July 27, 2015 at 3:34:19 PM CDT
To: <mthiel@lawrenceks.org>
Subject: August 8-9, 2015 George Williams Way Closure for Urban Water Slide

Dear Mr. Thiel:

I'm writing as a homeowner in the neighborhood north of Langston Hughes Elementary and west of George Williams Way to express my opposition to granting a permit for closing George Williams Way from south of 6th Street to north of Harvard Road for the Urban Water Slide event on August 8-9, 2015. There is simply too much road and street construction going on already in the surrounding area to make this event viable logistically or safety-wise.

With the recent construction closure of the intersection at George Williams Way and Bob Billings Parkway (and I have no idea when it is supposed to reopen), my neighborhood is left with two ways in or out to the rest of the city: north on George Williams Way to 6th Street, or east on Harvard Road. Close George Williams Way from just south of 6th, and not only is my neighborhood down to just one way in or out--Harvard Road, there will also be only one way in and out for event attendees. That's significant because (1) there is a roundabout at the intersection of George Williams Way and Harvard Road and (2) I understand the planned parking location for the event is Langston Hughes's parking lot, which is south of the roundabout. That means both inbound and outbound vehicular traffic (for both the neighborhood and event attendees) and northbound and southbound event pedestrian traffic will all be sharing that roundabout.

There will undoubtedly be a large number of children who will be event attendees. Many will be under the positive control of their parents on their way to and from the water slide. Some, however, will not be or will escape their parents' control. That suggests to me the possibility of one or more vehicle/pedestrian collisions involving children.

Even if George Williams Way were to be closed from, say, only south of Ken Ridge Road so as to allow an additional route from 6th Street to the water slide event, that would only divert event vehicular traffic into the neighborhood's side streets--which could get really confusing for people not familiar with this neighborhood. In fact, coming off Ken Ridge Road/Blue Nile Road, one is immediately presented with Coving Drive as a choice for driving south toward Langston Hughes for parking. Just one problem with that, though: Coving Drive loops back onto George Williams Way well north of the roundabout, and possibly well north of where the water slide is supposed to end. The next street west from Coving Drive, Diamondhead Drive, loops back to George Williams Way at the roundabout itself; but both Coving Drive and Diamondhead Drive are fairly narrow streets, which could present some traffic congestion and possible collision problems all by themselves. And, since Diamondhead Drive terminates at the roundabout, closing George Williams Way south of Ken Ridge would do nothing to alleviate any of the potential roundabout problems I've already outlined.

There's still another problem, which is, the organizer as best as I can tell hasn't provided any information as to what the best routes will be for getting to and from the event, considering all of the construction activity in the area. That could mean a fairly large number of frustrated would-be event attendees driving through multiple West Lawrence neighborhoods confused, distracted--all of them possible accidents waiting to happen.

To sum up, I don't believe the event organizer has done a sufficient amount of planning for this event, and has not adequately thought through the safety and logistical implications. I believe the permit for the event on George Williams Way south of 6th Street should be denied.

I understand, though, from the Town Talk column that appeared this afternoon on the LJWorld website, that the event organizer plans to propose an alternative: closing George Williams Way north of 6th Street, and to take two of the four lanes there that lead to Rock Chalk Park and use those for the event, with parking to be at Rock Chalk Park. That to me makes a lot more sense logistically and safety-wise than the south-of-6th-Street option, and I can support the alternative.

I appreciate your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Michael R. Williams
825 Diamondhead Drive
Lawrence, KS 66049

Bobbie Walthall

To: Mark Thiel
Subject: RE: Urban Slide

From: Peggy Rasmussen <rasmussen@sunflower.com>

Date: July 27, 2015 at 3:24:29 PM CDT

To: <mthiel@lawrenceks.org>

Subject: Urban Slide

I would have to vote against issuing a Street Event Temporary Use of Public Right-of-Way Permit for a big slide for the following reason:

Road Construction has already closed part of George Williams Way

The traffic has found its way through this mess on Longleaf drive, a small neighborhood street

To get to Longleaf Drive from Bob Billings most traffic will take Red Leaf St. This street should be closed because of the huge potholes located at that intersection. For some reason the city has been unable to repair this area. Maybe this increased traffic flow will give more exposure to the work that the city needs to do. (Please no more hot mix dumped into the holes. Tried it 5 times and doesn't work!)

There is also road construction on Bob Billings in two locations that hinders the safe flow of traffic on that street.

Question: Where will the food and beer stands be located? Doesn't seem like we can have an event without beer.

Keith Rasmussen
5820 Longleaf Dr.

Bobbie Walthall

To: Mark Thiel
Subject: RE: Urban Water Slide.

Begin forwarded message:

From: THOMAS CHAPMAN <bike2brew@sunflower.com>
Date: July 27, 2015 at 3:08:00 PM CDT
To: <jfarmer@lawrenceks.org>, <lsoden@lawrenceks.org>, <mikeamyx515@hotmail.com>, <sboley@lawrenceks.org>, <matthewjherbert@gmail.com>, <mthiel@lawrenceks.org>
Subject: **Re: Urban Water Slide.**

Mayor Jeremy Farmer
Vice Mayor Leslie Soden
Commissioner Mike Amyx
Commissioner Stuart Boley
Commissioner Matthew Herbert

While I still strongly object to the urban water slide on George Williams Way south of 6th Street for the reasons listed below in a previous email, placing the water slide north on 6th Street on George Williams seems like a much better idea that we have no objection to. Why didn't the promoter think of that first?

Tom and Kerry Chapman
1060 April Rain Rd
Lawrence, KS

From: "THOMAS CHAPMAN" <bike2brew@sunflower.com>
To: jfarmer@lawrenceks.org, lsoden@lawrenceks.org, mideamyx515@hotmail.com, sboley@lawrenceks.org, matthewjherbert@gmail.com, mthiel@lawrenceks.org
Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2015 12:40:43 PM
Subject: Urban Water Slide. Really?

Mayor Jeremy Farmer
Vice Mayor Leslie Soden
Commissioner Mike Amyx
Commissioner Stuart Boley
Commissioner Matthew Herbert

We were not very happy to receive notification of the Urban Water Slide Festival scheduled for August 8-9 on George Williams Way. We were not happy that we received this notification only 3 days before the City Commission meeting. And we are not happy that this water slide item is "scheduled for approval without separate discussion". It sounds like you don't want to hear from us and that you were trying to sneak this issue by us. There are many problems with your plan. Closing George Williams Way between 6th and Harvard Road will force all of the traffic normally on George Williams Way on to April Rain Rd right in front on our house. People going

to the event will park on April Rain Rd on both sides right in front of our house. When cars are parked on both sides of April Rain traffic will only be able to get through one direction at a time. This will create congestion and gridlock and make it very difficult to for us to get in and out of our driveway for the whole weekend. In addition to traffic issues there will be noise and litter issues. It creates potential safety issues as well. How would a fire engine get through our street if parked cars block its way? I just can't understand how you would even consider an idea like this. If you approve this waterslide south of 6th St, you will be creating a lot of unhappy voters in this neighborhood. We have good memory and we vote. PUT IT SOMEWHERE ELSE!

Tom and Kerry Chapman
1060 April Rain Rd
Lawrence, KS

Bobbie Walthall

To: Diane Stoddard
Subject: RE: Closing of George Williams Way

----- Forwarded message -----

From: "**Vernell St John**" <stjohnrv@gmail.com>
Date: Sun, Jul 26, 2015 at 3:01 PM -0700
Subject: Closing of George Williams Way
To: "Jeremy Farmer" <jfarmer@lawrenceks.org>, "Leslie Soden" <lsoden@lawrenceks.org>, "Mike Amyx" <mikeamyx515@hotmail.com>, "Stuart Boley" <sboley@lawrenceks.org>, "Matthew Herbert" <matthewjherbert@gmail.com>
Cc: "Diane Stoddard" <dstoddard@lawrenceks.org>

To: Jeremy Farmer, Mayor
Leslie Soden, Commissioner
Mike Amyx, Commissioner
Stuart Boley, Commissioner
Matthew Herbert, Commissioner

cc:
Diane Stoddard, Interim City Manager

Re: Public Use Permit for closing of George Williams Way

On July 24th, we received notice of the August 8-9 closing of George Williams Way. Why were we not notified about this event so that we could attend the City Council Meeting when it was being discussed?

The following are our concerns:

1. Advertisement of the event on the backside of the notice prior to the issuance of the permit;
2. The two entrances to our street, Coving Drive, are off of George Williams Way within the proposed closing;
3. George Williams Way access from the South is closed at Bob Billings Parkway;
4. Bob Billings Parkway is currently a two lane road; and
5. Extremely concerned about emergency vehicles, i.e., medical and fire, access to Coving Drive during any closure of George Williams Way as the response time would no doubt be greater than normal.

We vehemently oppose to the closure of a permit for a recreational event that could adversely affect the safety of the residents on Coving Drive.

Why should a commercial event take place in a strictly residential area?

Sincerely,
Vernell and Gary St John
869 Coving Drive
Lawrence, KS

Bobbie Walthall

To: Mark Thiel
Subject: RE: Urban Slide

-----Original Message-----

From: Monica Dittmer [<mailto:nomorejunkmailpleez@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2015 12:54 PM
To: Mark Thiel
Subject: Urban Slide

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing in support of the Urban Slide that WAS scheduled to come to Lawrence next month.

I believe this is a unique family event that would benefit many in our community. I also believe this event would entice those from surrounding communities to join us for the weekend and therefore provide some economic benefit to our community.

It seems pretty ridiculous that a compromise cannot be reached with the promoter, our city, and any neighborhood area.

Please consider working to make this event happen. I know my family... as well as many others....had already purchased tickets and we're excited to attend.

Sincerely,

Monica Dittmer

Sent from my iPhone

Bobbie Walthall

To: Casey Toomay
Subject: RE: The Urban Slide Festival

From: Marcia Atchison [<mailto:matchison3319@gmail.com>]

Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2015 12:54 PM

To: City Hall email

Subject: The Urban Slide Festival

As property owners, we have concerns about the negative implications of bringing a crowd of this size into our neighborhood for two days (i.e. property damage, trash, parking issues, theft, noise, etc.). While the festival has the potential to bring a fun activity to Lawrence, our neighborhood isn't the most appropriate venue.

One alternative is recommending the event be held on George Williams Way NORTH of [6th St](#) where no personal property would be exposed to the negative implications of a crowd this size.

Regards,

Leonard and Marcia Atchison

Bobbie Walthall

To: Diane Stoddard
Subject: RE: Concerns Regarding Proposed Urban Slide Event, 8-9 August on George Williams Way

From: Ryan Robinson [<mailto:ryan@gosilverback.com>]

Sent: Saturday, July 25, 2015 4:21 PM

To: Michael Kelly

Cc: Jeremy Farmer; Leslie Soden; Mike Amyx; Stuart Boley; Jackie Mickel; Matthew Herbert; Diane Stoddard; Megan Gilliland; Charles Soules; Mark Bradford; Mark Thiel; Silverback; Chad Lawhorn; Ann Gardner; Julie Boyle; rdoll@usd497.org; Tarik Khatib; Randy Glidewell; Amy Weishaar; Amy Phalen; Shannon Kimball

Subject: Re: Concerns Regarding Proposed Urban Slide Event, 8-9 August on George Williams Way

Mayor Farmer and Commissioners -

Please remove the permit application from the agenda. We are going to cancel the event in Lawrence.

I think anyone that knows myself and the work that Silverback does within this community knows that we only wish to bring goodness, happiness and prosperity to this city. However, for a variety of reasons we are finding it is harder and harder to do that within Lawrence and quite frankly the trouble is not worth the gain. I can assure everyone that Silverback brought this event to Lawrence solely because we truly believed that bringing a nationally recognized event to Lawrence would benefit the community...not to mention that the Travel Channel was going to film the event and do a special piece on Silverback's production team working in it's hometown. Ultimately, the event is a blast and we thought the families of Lawrence would enjoy it.

I can also assure you that Silverback and City Officials had developed a solid plan lined out to address every single point listed in Mr. Kelly's dramatic email. This is by far the most simple event that we produce and is nowhere near the resemblance of the picture Mr. Kelly has painted. (*It's a waterslide...that's all it is.*) Silverback has grown to become one of the largest and most respected event companies in the country and that reputation has not been gained by leaving things up to chance. It has also not been gained by forcing events into unwelcoming communities. We would never do anything in Lawrence to jeopardize our reputation or the good that we have brought this city over the years. We will politely bow out in to the open arms one of the other 225 welcoming cities that we work with on an annual basis.

Regards,
Ryan Robinson

On Sat, Jul 25, 2015 at 1:51 PM, Michael Kelly <job4mike6@aol.com> wrote:

Mr. Mayor, Commisioners, Chief Bradford, Chief Khatib, City Staff Members, School District Staff Members and Neighbors-

I request City Commission consideration of this permit be removed from the consent agenda and placed on the regular agenda.

I understand a local business, Silverback Enterprises, has requested a permit to close a portion of George Williams Way for 48 hours to set up large water slide in the right-of-way, conduct a recreational event, and remove the water slide. Event parking is planned for neighborhood streets and Langston Hughes Elementary School.

Below is an image of one side of the postcard notice sent to nearby property owners. Sadly, this side of the postcard looks like junk mail and not an official city notice. For Ms. Stoddard and Ms. Gilliland: Suggest in the future official communications containing time-urgent city notifications look more formal on both sides of the postcard and less like direct mail marketing.

I do like the idea of the city supporting local businesses in innovative ways. That's good public policy.

However, I have a large number of reservations about this permit and event that City Staff and USD 497 Staff should be prepared to address at Tuesday's meeting.

- In Silverback's business and marketing plan, how many cars and attendees are expected to attend, given ideal weather conditions? I'm not persuaded by Silverback's claim stated in Ryan Robinson's e-mail to the Principal of Langston Hughes that most participants will reside in the surrounding neighborhood and walk to the event. In any case, Silverback's stated hope is not sufficient basis to approve this permit without further review of the potential number of cars and participants.
- With the proposed closure of George Williams Way for this event and the ongoing Bob Billings Parkway and George Williams Way intersection improvement project, traffic access to the event will possibly create greatly increased traffic density on nearby residential streets, namely West Harvard Road, April Rain Road, Stoneridge Drive, and Longleaf Drive. For Chief Bradford and Chief Khatib: during this event will unusually high traffic density, the street closure and the impairment of Bob Billings Drive and George Williams Way intersection create unacceptable emergency response times to the Diamondhead, Langston Heights, and Cove subdivisions west of George Williams Way or the Fox Chase south subdivisions along West Harvard Road? Other far west Lawrence emergency services may be impaired —please confirm these potential impairments pose acceptable risk?
- For the school district staff: Have sufficient arrangements been made with Silverback to indemnify the school district for any damage caused by "overflow" parking on grass playground surfaces? Will Silverback arrange for trash containers and litter pick up in the parking lot at Langston Hughes Elementary School and elsewhere on school grounds following the event? Will Silverback have a security monitor present during the operating hours of the event to respond and minimize any parking lot disputes that might arise and to deter vandalism of school grounds?
- Are available police resources scheduled for more intense traffic management and patrolling to deter disorderly conduct during the event?
- What food or beverage vendors are permitted during the event? Where will these vendors, if any, be located? Will Silverback serve food and beverages rather than other vendors? What other sponsored activities will occur in conjunction with this event? Do these other sponsored activities require a Transient Merchant License permit?
- By city ordinance transient merchants are not permitted to conduct business in residential districts past 8 p.m. The urban slide will operate until 10 p.m. on Saturday night per the urban slide web site. Does the city commission believe this is acceptable exception to the city ordinance?
- Will Silverback provide any portable toilet facilities and trash containers? Where will such facilities be located?
- What will be the expected noise impacts of the staging, set-up, take-down and removal of the urban slide structure and associated event equipment?
- What time of day or night will the staging, set-up, take-down and removal of event structures take place?
- Will there be photometric impacts, amplified music, or a public address system in use throughout the event or will any public address system be used only infrequently for event management and public safety?

- What is the parking contingency plan if Langston Hughes property is insufficient? FYI: There are roughly 90 marked parking spaces in the LHES lot.
- What is the contingency for high winds? What is the safety limit for the water slide structure in high wind conditions? Under what other weather conditions such as lightning, rain, or severe weather warnings will the slide be closed or use suspended? See this YouTube news report with photographs and animation of an unfortunate wind-related incident: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Ymr1u0l4ho>
- Does Silverback have insurance sufficient to address claims by nearby property owners should the urban slide equipment become airborne in high winds, strike nearby structures and cause damage?
- Will the mooring of the urban slide structure to the ground damage city right of way and will Silverback agree to repair (or provide compensation for) any damage to city right-of-way caused in such staging, set-up, operation, take-down and removal of the the urban slide structure?
- On the west side of George Williams there are roughly a dozen duplex townhomes with Coving Drive addresses separated from the public right-of-way by a berm and other landscaping features. There is no fence. How does Silverback propose to control event patrons and prevent trespassing on these Coving Drive properties? This circumstance impacts over 20 families. There are fences for the properties on the east side of George Williams Way so trespassing there is more difficult.

Thank you for your attention to these concerns and I look forward to careful deliberations at the City Commission on Tuesday evening.

Best wishes,

Mike Kelly
1123 Brynwood Court and landlord for 880 Coving Drive

--

-SILVERBACK-

Bobbie Walthall

To: Mark Thiel
Subject: RE: Concerns Regarding Proposed Urban Slide Event, 8-9 August on George Williams Way

From: Michael Kelly [<mailto:job4mike6@aol.com>]

Sent: Saturday, July 25, 2015 1:52 PM

To: Jeremy Farmer; Leslie Soden; Mike Amyx; Stuart Boley; Jackie Mickel; Matthew Herbert; Diane Stoddard; Megan Gilliland; Charles Soules; Mark Bradford; Mark Thiel; info@gosilverback.com; clawhorn@ljworld.com; Ann Gardner; Julie Boyle; rdoll@usd497.org; Tarik Khatib; ryan@gosilverback.com

Cc: Jennifer McCall; myersjennifer123@gmail.com; Sarah Hoskinson; Randy Glidewell; Angel Nuzum; Amy Weishaar; Amy Phalen; Jenn Hethcoat; Kristie Bowen; Pittman Karl/Carol; carolinejackson@stephensre.com; Georgiana Beverly; Diane Kelly; Jack Kelly; Shannon Kimball; Kris Adair; Kim Rack; Diane Vigna; barbaraburket@me.com; Jeff Hoffman

Subject: Concerns Regarding Proposed Urban Slide Event, 8-9 August on George Williams Way

Mr. Mayor, Commissioners, Chief Bradford, Chief Khatib, City Staff Members, School District Staff Members and Neighbors-

I request City Commission consideration of this permit be removed from the consent agenda and placed on the regular agenda.

I understand a local business, Silverback Enterprises, has requested a permit to close a portion of George Williams Way for 48 hours to set up large water slide in the right-of-way, conduct a recreational event, and remove the water slide. Event parking is planned for neighborhood streets and Langston Hughes Elementary School.

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I do like the idea of the city supporting local businesses in innovative ways. That's good public policy.

However, I have a large number of reservations about this permit and event that City Staff and USD 497 Staff should be prepared to address at Tuesday's meeting.

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Chase south subdivisions along West Harvard Road? Other far west Lawrence emergency services may be impaired —please confirm these potential impairments pose acceptable risk?

- For the school district staff: Have sufficient arrangements been made with Silverback to indemnify the school district for any damage caused by “overflow” parking on grass playground surfaces? Will Silverback arrange for trash containers and litter pick up in the parking lot at Langston Hughes Elementary School and elsewhere on school grounds following the event ? Will Silverback have a security monitor present during the operating hours of the event to respond and minimize any parking lot disputes that might arise and to deter vandalism of school grounds?
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Bobbie Walthall

To: Mark Thiel
Subject: RE: Urban Water Slide

-----Original Message-----

From: Edward Burrichter [<mailto:ecburr@sbcglobal.net>]
Sent: Saturday, July 25, 2015 10:12 AM
To: Mark Thiel
Subject: Urban Water Slide

Hi Mark,

It's me again. Not about construction trucks this time.

Not opposing the water slide on George Williams Way at this point, but do have some questions as I will not be able to be at the commission meeting Tuesday.

From an email from the sponsor, I understand parking will be available at Langston Hughes school. As the round about on GWW will be the only exit and entrance to Diamondhead neighborhood, I am concerned about traffic control and pedestrian safety. Will there be crossing guards at the round about to help people coming from Langston Hughes and get traffic through the intersection? Will the intersection on Bob Billings and GWW be opened by that time? If so, that will also increase traffic coming from the south. Will parking be allowed on Diamondhead Drive and east on Harvard? When school is in session, Diamondhead gets very crowded at times and can be dangerous navigating through a single lane when cars are parked there.

Another concern is concessions. I assume there will be some. Who is in charge of cleaning up the mess after the event? Port-a potties? Will people be trespassing on the backyards of the homes on Coving Drive? Just concerned about potential damage to property.

I hope the commission will take these concerns into consideration when deciding whether to approve or not.

Thanks again for your help,

Ed Burrichter
6113 Palisades Drive

Bobbie Walthall

To: Mark Thiel
Subject: RE: Urban Water Slide

From: Andrew Pitts [<mailto:APitts@TreanorArchitects.com>]
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2015 10:11 PM
To: Mark Thiel
Subject: Re: Urban Water Slide

Thanks Matt. Postcard came today in the mail.

Do you have a contact for silverback? Would like to contact them before the meeting Tuesday.

Andrew Pitts, AIA, LEED AP BD+C
Principal
apitts@treanorarchitects.com
Treanor Architects
1811 Baltimore Ave.
Kansas City, MO 64108

Direct: [816.581.4030](tel:816.581.4030)
Office: [816.221.0900](tel:816.221.0900)
Strength Through Expertise
www.treanorarchitects.com

On Jul 24, 2015, at 3:35 PM, Mark Thiel <mthiel@lawrenceks.org> wrote:

Thank for keeping me posted – the notice is a requirement

Mark Thiel
(785) 832-3134
mthiel@lawrenceks.org

From: Andrew Pitts [<mailto:APitts@TreanorArchitects.com>]
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2015 3:25 PM
To: Mark Thiel
Subject: Re: Urban Water Slide

Thanks Matt for the update. To date, no letters have been received with the neighbors I have talked to... I will continue to ask.

Andrew Pitts, AIA, LEED AP BD+C
Principal
apitts@treanorarchitects.com
Treanor Architects
1811 Baltimore Ave.
Kansas City, MO 64108

Direct: [816.581.4030](tel:816.581.4030)
Office: [816.221.0900](tel:816.221.0900)
Strength Through Expertise
www.treanorarchitects.com

On Jul 24, 2015, at 12:38 PM, Mark Thiel <mthiel@lawrenceks.org> wrote:

Andrew – thanks for the questions, I have included reply's after them below

Let me know if you have other questions

Mark Thiel
(785) 832-3134
mthiel@lawrenceks.org

From: Andrew Pitts [<mailto:APitts@TreanorArchitects.com>]
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2015 9:48 PM
To: Mark Thiel
Cc: Scott McCullough; Jeremy Farmer
Subject: Urban Water Slide

Matt-

It is my understanding you are coordinating the traffic issues for this event. I have a few questions I hope you can answer...

1. Will the intersection of Bob Billings and Geo William be open at the time of the event? This work greatly impacts the traffic flow of the area. I have asked our engineering staff about this and they anticipate the intersection will be back open by the date of the event. If for some reason that does not happen – we would need the event organizer to work with us and that contractor to temporarily open the intersection for weekend.
2. Was the applicant required to notify the impacted area or just the adjacent property owners? No notification has been provided to the neighborhood. The applicant was required to send out notice to every home and business within the red outlined radius (see attached map). I spoke with the organizer today and he indicated that those notices have gone out – let me know if you don't receive one – I have also attached what the city required be sent out – they may be sending additional information
3. Will on-street parking be allowed in the residential neighborhoods? The original map provided indicated people could park on all city streets. The information posted on the agenda indicates only at the school and maybe the church. The plan is for attendees to park at Langston. This is a staged event – meaning tickets were sold for a specific time slot, they are anticipating approximately 250 people per time slot. For overflow parking I suggested to the organizer that they place no parking signs on one side of all adjacent streets.

4. Will the applicant be required to hire the Lawrence PD to patrol the area to minimize traffic issues and direction to the neighborhood? We do not anticipate any issues that additional police patrols would be needed for, however, our police department has reviewed the application and will monitor the event and adjust as needed. Additionally there will be no alcohol associated with or sponsored by the event.
5. What restrictions have been placed on the applicant to:
 - a. Clean up the impacted area? The applicant will be required to leave the area as it was found or better - we have multiple events each year with this Lawrence based company and they have always done a great job cleaning up. City staff will confirm that on Monday after the event and follow up with the organizers if additional clean-up is necessary
 - b. Restrict noise per the City ordinance? - there will be some noise with the set up, but my understanding is that it will be kept to a minimum
 - c. Limit alcohol use during the event? No alcohol was requested or authorized for this event

I would appreciate any answers you may be able to provide prior to the meeting on Tuesday.

Thank you,

Andrew Pitts, AIA, LEED AP BD+C

Principal

apitts@treanorarchitects.com

Treanor Architects

DALLAS, TEXAS • KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI • LAWRENCE, KANSAS
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI • TOPEKA, KANSAS

Direct: 816.581.4030

Office: 816.221.0900

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<urban water slide notice.docx>

<urban water slide notification map 2015.pdf>

Bobbie Walthall

To: Mark Thiel
Subject: RE: Urban Slide August 8-9

From: D. Haverkamp [<mailto:dhaverka@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2015 8:52 PM
To: Mark Thiel
Subject: Urban Slide August 8-9

I can see a number of ideas why this is a bad idea.

1. Construction

Will construction at the intersection of George Williams and Bob Billings Parkway be finished by then? Will construction along Bob Billings Parkway between there and Wakarusa be finished?

a. Dodging construction is painful enough the way it is, without part of George Williams being shut off. It is the primary way from our development out to 6th street.

b. The construction trucks that work at the end of Bob Billings use George Williams as their major way to and from the work site. Large gravel trucks come in and out all day. Are you really considering delaying an expensive construction project by a day for this? (I know they don't work on Sundays, but they do work construction on Saturdays.)

c. Corpus Christi Catholic Church is large. It has many parishioners, many of whom use George Williams to get to church and back home. If these drivers are forced to take other routes, it could certainly back up other areas that are also under construction. I can see a traffic nightmare happening. Even if the other construction is finished (which I doubt), it's still a major inconvenience for those church-goers.

2. Safety

I've seen some of these slides on YouTube. They are mostly innocent and slow. The hilltop at George Williams and 6th Street is high. I know you're thinking it doesn't look it, but have you ever biked up it? I have. It is a tough hill. It is a deceptively steep hill. Is this "Urban Slide" project equipped to handle the safety issues of having people sliding willy-nilly down a very steep hill? I think it will be a situation of lawsuits just waiting to happen.

3. Garbage

Is the city going to pay for the clean-up after this event? People drop garbage. They are very messy. Undoubtedly there will be garbage beside the roadway, garbage everywhere. I assume the city will have to clean up the mess left behind.

Are you sure that whatever money the "Urban Water Slide" has promised to pay the City of Lawrence will cover lost time in construction, mess clean-up, and potential lawsuits? (If someone can't pin Urban Slide for their accident, you can bet they will come knocking on the City of Lawrence's door.)

I would recommend you think twice (and even again) about providing a free pass to Urban Water Slide to conduct this event.

Sincerely,
Donna Haverkamp

Bobbie Walthall

To: Mark Thiel
Subject: RE: Slip and Slide

-----Original Message-----

From: David Schauner [<mailto:dschauner@sunflower.com>]

Sent: Friday, July 24, 2015 6:10 PM

To: Mark Thiel

Subject: Slip and Slide

I am strongly opposed to closing George Williams Way for a profit making venture. As a taxpayer I have paid for the street and if a for profit wants to use the street at a minimum It should pay a meaningful fee for the privilege . Asking the user to pay for the closure and all cleanup costs(bonded coverage for the cost) should be a minimum. If you say yes to this adventure how can you ever say no to the next proposal.

P.S. Will BBP roadwork be finished by that date? Based on current progress I suspect not and that will mean ALOT of traffic through surrounding neighborhood.

David Schauner
5002 Jeffries Ct
Lawrence 66047

Sent from my iPad

Bobbie Walthall

To: Mark Thiel
Subject: RE: Urban Water Slide. Really?

From: THOMAS CHAPMAN [<mailto:bike2brew@sunflower.com>]

Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2015 12:41 PM

To: Jeremy Farmer; Leslie Soden; mideamyx515@hotmail.com; Stuart Boley; Matthew Herbert; Mark Thiel

Subject: Urban Water Slide. Really?

Importance: High

Mayor Jeremy Farmer
Vice Mayor Leslie Soden
Commissioner Mike Amyx
Commissioner Stuart Boley
Commissioner Matthew Herbert
Lawrence City Manager

We were not very happy to receive notification of the Urban Water Slide Festival scheduled for August 8-9 on George Williams Way. We were not happy that we received this notification only 3 days before the City Commission meeting. And we are not happy that this water slide item is "scheduled for approval without separate discussion". It sounds like you don't want to hear from us and that you were trying to sneak this issue by us. There are many problems with your plan. Closing George Williams Way between 6th and Harvard Road will force all of the traffic normally on George Williams Way on to April Rain Rd right in front on our house. People going to the event will park on April Rain Rd on both sides right in front of our house. When cars are parked on both sides of April Rain traffic will only be able to get through one direction at a time. This will create congestion and gridlock and make it very difficult to for us to get in and out of our driveway for the whole weekend. In addition to traffic issues there will be noise and litter issues. It creates potential safety issues as well. How would a fire engine get through our street if parked cars block its way? I just can't understand how you would even consider an idea like this. If you approve this waterslide south of 6th St, you will be creating a lot of unhappy voters in this neighborhood. We have good memory and we vote. PUT IT SOMEWHERE ELSE!

Tom and Kerry Chapman
1060 April Rain Rd
Lawrence, KS

Bobbie Walthall

To: Mark Thiel
Subject: RE: Urban Water Slide

From: Therese Wozniak [<mailto:tmwozniak@gmail.com>]
Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2015 1:27 PM
To: Mark Thiel
Subject: Urban Water Slide

Mr. Thiel,

This email is in regards to the proposed Urban Water Slide. I live at Ironwood Apartments and find this proposal to be inconvenient and undesirable. There has been road construction in and around George Williams Way and Bob Billings for several months now. During this construction, there has been a lack of properly labeled detours for closed streets. I have watched many vehicles turn around on the not yet 100% completed road right outside my apartment due to them not knowing that George Williams is closed north of Bob Billings. When George Williams was closed south of Bob Billings in early June, again, there was no detour sign for several days. While I was able to navigate to and from my apartment complex with little trouble, someone unfamiliar with the area would have been unable. I am concerned that there will be few detour signs guiding people to their homes while this Urban Slide is going on.

I am also concerned about the large amount of people that will be in the area in this mostly residential area. Where will they park? It is quite the trek from Sports Pavilion Lawrence. Should we expect people to be parking on the streets? Will there be designated parking areas? Will Langston Hughes be used? Will the intersection of Bob Billings and George Williams Way be open?

While I realize this is Kansas and the hills needed for such a slide are few and far between, surely there is a better spot than George Williams Way. Instead of going south of 6th Street, why not go north towards the Sports Pavilion? This area is mostly developing or undeveloped, except for a few occupied homes and the Pavilion itself. The hill is about the same. I suspect that this was not proposed for a variety of reasons, the biggest being that it would affect the Pavilion and cost the city some money.

I am not sure this is even up for reconsideration, but I hope that people will think about moving this event. This is a section of road that has seen many road closures the past several months, and is mostly all residential. I realize that it is only for two days, but that is two more days to an already inconvenienced area.

Thank you for your time.

Therese Wozniak

Bobbie Walthall

To: Mark Thiel
Subject: RE: Urban Slide

From: Mary Gatewood [<mailto:gatewood.mary@gmail.com>]
Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2015 2:26 PM
To: Mark Thiel
Subject: Urban Slide

I am not in favor of the proposed Urban Slide project which is scheduled for August 8 and 9 near my home.

The traffic congestion, closed street on George Williams Way, increased noise levels, safety issues are all of great concern.

Emergency vehicles arriving to help neighborhood residents will be impaired and access to Rock Chalk Park as well as St. Margaret's church adversely affected.

Traffic on Sixth Street will be more crowded than usual--impeding timely access to K-10--and the mess left behind following the event on George Williams Way creates an atmosphere not sought by area residents. This is not the type of climate residents of this area seek or will tolerate. I cannot attend the council meeting on Tuesday. I trust that my input will be added to the decision making process.

Bobbie Walthall

To: Mark Thiel
Subject: RE: Urban Slide

-----Original Message-----

From: Emily Mertz [<mailto:emily.mertz@hotmail.com>]

Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2015 10:10 PM

To: Mark Thiel; Jeremy Farmer; Leslie Soden; mideamyx515@hotmail.com; Stuart Boley;
matthewjhebert@gmail.com

Subject: Urban Slide

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing in regards to the Urban Slide as I will be unable to attend the City Commission meeting on Tuesday July 28, 2015 due to previous commitments. I am excited to have Lawrence host such a fun event, however; I have several concerns about the proposed location for this event. I understand that a crowd of over 4000 people may attend this event. I am a suburban property owner in the area of the proposed location and a crowd of this size in a neighborhood setting has the potential to bring several negative implications. Some of the negative implications include: 1) property damage 2)excessive trash 3)excessive noise 4)increased potential for theft 5)inadequate parking. While parking is proposed at Langston Hughes Elementary school, the school cannot accommodate a crowd of the magnitude. Parking will overflow into the quiet neighborhoods, making it difficult for homeowners to enter/exit their own property. A fellow neighbor has proposed moving the slide to north of 6th Street. I strongly agree with her recommendation as Rock Chalk Park can certainly handle the parking of a crowd this size. It would also decrease the exposure of negative impacts on personal property. I look forward to hearing the final location for the event.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Emily Kriegshauser

Bobbie Walthall

To: Mark Thiel
Subject: RE: Big slide

From: Corey Stone [<mailto:coreyystone@gmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2015 8:01 AM
To: Mark Thiel
Subject: Big slide

Hello,

I got the letter about the big slide on George Williams Way, and I'm all for it. I think it'll be a fun unique event for the city, and making a detour on Stoneridge Dr is sufficient.

Thanks,
Corey

Bobbie Walthall

To: Mark Thiel
Subject: RE: Urban water slide

-----Original Message-----

From: Joyce Dunlap [<mailto:joydun@icloud.com>]
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2015 8:07 AM
To: Mark Thiel
Cc: Jeremy Farmer
Subject: Urban water slide

While I do not believe a residential neighborhood is a good place I would support the urban water slide in my neighborhood as long as the city blocks side street parking and ensures the area is cleaned up after the event.

J Dunlap
5820 Simple LN

Sent from my iPhone

Bobbie Walthall

To: Diane Stoddard
Subject: RE: urban slide correspondence

From: Barbara Burket [<mailto:barbaraburket@me.com>]

Sent: Thursday, July 16, 2015 9:58 AM

To: City Hall email

Subject: Urban Slide Event

Hi, I live in the Diamondhead neighborhood... Off George Williams way. Urban slide event has moved its event to this very busy street. We already have enough interference with all of the construction. So as a resident I do NOT want this in my neighborhood. Why can't they move it to the road heading down to rock chalk park?

Thx, Barbara Burket

Sent from my iPhone