

A sacred trust has been broken

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Editor,

A partial sale of Jean Klock property to developers? Benton Harbor was given a gift of the land with the stipulation that the park "shall forever be used by the said city of Benton Harbor for bathing beach, park purposes, or other public purposes, etc." I question the wisdom of the Benton Harbor City Commission to even consider its sale. I realize that when people need money, they do desperate things, but this pristine beach is irreplaceable.

I am (I believe) the only remaining senior member of the family of donators of beautiful Lake Bluff Park in St. Joseph. I know how I would feel if the St. Joseph City Commission were to vote to desecrate this beautiful site. My great-grandfather clearly stated that the bluff property was donated to the village of St. Joseph with the provision that no commercial endeavor ever be placed on the property. It was stated in the 1834 deed that the property known as the Side Hill "forever remain a public common and not be converted to any other use." This agreement has not been broken in more than 165 years!

I don't believe the St. Joseph City Commission would ever consider violating the provisions that were agreed upon by their predecessors. Nor should the Benton Harbor commission. A violation of a sacred agreement is never forgiven and will be a blot on Benton Harbor forever. Let's hope and pray they awaken to the seriousness of violating a solemn oath to the Klock family.

Robert Hatch

St. Joseph