

Fate of Klock Park remains up in the air

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Editor,

At the Nov. 3 Benton Harbor City Commission meeting, a resolution to approve the privatization of property within Jean Klock Park was removed from the agenda.

On the following day, coverage of this meeting was featured on the front page of The Herald Palladium under the headline, "Benton Harbor backs off Klock Park sale." The article was well-written, but unfortunately the title was misinterpreted by many. The impression was that this meant the legal battle is over and the park has been spared from upscale residential development. This is not the case as the lawsuit is ongoing. A public hearing on the privatization issue has been scheduled for Dec. 8 at Benton Harbor City Hall. I'd like to urge all who are concerned to attend that meeting in support of keeping the park intact for the children - of yesterday, today and tomorrow.

The Grand Boulevard Development Team has attempted to portray to the public that there is a majority of support for residential development within Jean Klock Park. Their claim contradicts the numerous letters of anti-project sentiment to the editor of this paper, as to date there has not been one of support. In addition to that, at several City Commission meetings there has been nothing but an outpouring of individual pleas to abandon the development, with the exception of one person. It was later discovered that this particular person, who spoke in support of the project, has a business relationship with the developers.

I would like to emphasize that none of the public comments submitted to this paper or made at commission meetings were solicited by the Friends of Jean Klock Park!

In the meantime, another venue to voice public opinion has been created at the Friends of Jean Klock Park's Web site. In addition to our online petition page, we have included a message board that welcomes all comments, pro or con. This board's content will not be censored as we believe it is important that the truth of what the public wants be known.

It is our hope that this discussion forum will be utilized and viewed by both sides. You may visit our Web site to participate in this open forum, and/or submit to the petition page at:www.savejeanklockpark.com

Carol Drake

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