

August 3, 2017

Ms. Olivia Sontag, Planner
Department of Planning and Community Development
280 Madison Avenue, N.
Bainbridge Island, Wa 98110

Re: Bloedel Reserve Parking SPR – PLN50734 SPR

Dear Ms. Sontag,

We are writing to you and the City of Bainbridge Island Department of Planning and Community Development to express our deep concern with the Bloedel Reserve's proposal for a revision to the entrance and exit of its facility. This major change to the operation of the Reserve will have very negative impacts on the surrounding private and protected community in the Agate Point area and introduce a significant danger to residents and visitors alike.

After attending an informational meeting sponsored by the Reserve we remain apprehensive about the following issues:

1. The Reserve will be increasing its attempts to attract even more vehicular traffic to its facility with more parking, more cars, more people, and more buses. There has already been a significant increase in traffic to and from the neighborhood. The three roads impacted most significantly by this mostly off-island traffic, Agatewood Road, Dolphin Drive and Agate Point Road, are all narrow, two-lane roads with absolutely no protection for local residents, pedestrians, cyclists, children, pets and drivers.
2. The proposal states that there will be a reduction in traffic congestion at the present entrance and an increase in safety, while ignoring that their proposed exit will force traffic across two lanes of on-coming traffic. Three important safety issues remain:
 - a. There is a 90-degree corner turning from Dolphin Drive onto Agate Point Road across from their present entrance that has contributed to a number of accidents in the past (eight months ago a motorist crashed into the Reserve property),
 - b. the Kitsap Transit bus stop that is 75 feet from their entrance and
 - c. the much-used driveway into the West Sound Wildlife Center, a mere 100 feet from the Bloedel Reserve.

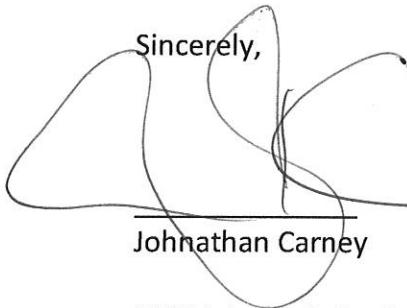
With the above points in mind, we respectfully ask the City of Bainbridge Island Department of Planning and Community Development to:

- Work with and direct the Bloedel Reserve to develop and implement alternative plans for vehicular traffic in and out of their facility by widening their main entrance in order to accommodate both entering and exiting traffic. With its 150 acres of space, the Reserve can mediate traffic risk inside their property without increasing risk to the neighborhood or its visitors by routing more traffic onto Agate Point Road, a residential street.
- This solution will allow all vehicles to have a direct line of sight of oncoming traffic on Dolphin Dr., rather than crossing Agate Point Road on an unsafe curve with insufficient line of sight. This risk exists whether incoming or exiting traffic uses the proposed new gate onto Agate Point Road.
- Implement a traffic study utilizing local traffic engineers with more accurate knowledge of the area. The current study assumes that vehicles will travel at 15 mph in that area, thereby implying that their proposal is able to provide safe travel. The speed limit is **35 mph** and traffic already regularly travels faster than that. As an example, we personally have had to take defensive action to avoid 3 near miss collisions at the Dolphin/Agate Point Road curve just in the last week alone.

Once again, we urge the City to arrive at a safe and sane solution to the increased traffic to and from the Bloedel Reserve which will preserve the quiet, residential nature of our neighborhood. If you have questions or would like clarification of any of our concerns, please feel free to contact us.

Thank you for your consideration of these very important safety concerns and requests.

Sincerely,



Johnathan Carney



Mackie Cargill

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