

Debra Thompson

From: Barry Bracken <bbsea@gci.net>
Sent: Sunday, November 1, 2020 2:27 PM
To: Assembly
Subject: Sandy Beach Park playground project

On October 15, I walked by Sandy Beach Park and was surprised to observe a number of trees being limbed and/or removed, large stumps being removed, and the ground being cleared and leveled. I think it came as a surprise to many when the work began. I knew that The Rotary Club has been raising money to replace playground equipment and to make some other modifications. Therefore, when I saw work beginning, I assumed that the money must have been secured and that a plan must have been reviewed and approved before this work commenced. I've since learned that there may not have been any professional planning nor formal public review process for this project.

I applaud the Sandy Beach Playground Restoration Project Committee for raising funds and wanting to upgrade the playground portion of the park. However, Sandy Beach Park belongs to the entire community, and I believe the community should be more involved in the planning of such a major modification. Also, I believe that an improvement project of this scope on public land should be professionally planned. More importantly, that plan needs have broad community backing, including the endorsement of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee. I encourage the Assembly to halt work on this project until a community planning and review process is conducted. When that is done, the project can then go forward with full community support.

Thank you.
Barry E Bracken
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Sent from my iPad