

pzcounter

From: Brian Henderson <brian.c.henderson@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 03, 2016 9:55 AM
To: pzcounter
Subject: Re: Today's article: "Residents oppose proposed sight for cancer camp"

FYI. This is my letter to the Editor of Mountain Express in response to the article "Residents oppose proposed sight for cancer camp" in yesterday's paper (Friday, Sept. 2nd) We believe it is important for P & Z to be aware of our position, which is also the position of East Fork and Triumph communities.

On Fri, Sep 2, 2016 at 5:20 PM, Brian Henderson <brian.c.henderson@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Editor,

We are disappointed in the tone and implication of the article by Madelyn Beck in today's edition concerning the proposal by Camp Rainbow Gold to build a full service facility for young cancer victims, 7 1/2 miles down East Fork Road. Contrary to Ms. Beck's implications, the vast majority of both Triumph and East Fork residents fully support CRG's mission, and several respondents praised CRG for its work on behalf of cancer stricken children and their families. The objective of CRG and its mission is not the issue.

The issue simply put is the deleterious effect that building a de novo facility would have on the entire East Fork and Triumph communities. These negative effects include increased volume of vehicular traffic including heavy trucks and other equipment during the construction phase (22 months), buses and vans as well as increased private vehicles on a road that is already stretched beyond safe capacity. Current speed limit notwithstanding, there is a heightened risk already to pedestrians, cyclists (of which there are many), joggers and drivers. It is even more risky during the winter months. The so-called traffic analysis presented at the meeting was a sanitized and cursory presentation meant to put the best "face" on the community's concerns, just like every other "consultant" who was called in to give a rosy view of this project.

The needed analysis on heightened and incremental fire risk, demands on water resource, sewage and medical waste have not been properly vetted by an independent and neutral authority. Until such time as there is an independent authority able to study, with sufficient time, the detailed plans and the effects on the broader community and the environment, the residents of East Fork and Triumph have nothing to go on but the simple assurances of the vested CRG Board and their representatives. As an example, in answer to one of the Triumph residents question about sub-standard road from Triumph to the proposed facility, the presenter arbitrarily offered that CRG would "fix the road." What does that mean? converting the dirt road to fully paved? widening the road appropriately so that it would be safer, including paving? and will they pay for this or will it fall on the burden of the taxpayers of Blaine County?

In short this is a project which has not been fully thought through and seems to be driven solely for the benefit of taking advantage of a sizable gift in land value, and completing the sale (and the gift) before year-end. It seems CRG is putting the cart before the horse for this project. CRG is being irresponsible by rushing to close on this property and putting in jeopardy the safety of the children it serves, and the communities of East Fork and Triumph.

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