

February 13th, 2024: Letter from John Gibbs in response to Friends of Hyland letter February 1, 2024

Gibbs, John

From:john.gibbs@threeriversparks.org

To:friendsofhyland@yahoo.com

Cc:Carlson, Boe

Tue, Feb 13 at 11:40 AM

Friends of Hyland:

We have received your February 1 correspondence and attachment labeled Retaliation Activity. As always, that communication is included in the Park District records.

Your latest correspondence copying the Met Council Chair and members follows similar correspondence you recently provided to State legislators, Hennepin County officials, various city officials, and others. Contrary to your repeated claim that the Park District has not responded to you, we have responded to this group on numerous occasions, including offering to meet with your group and providing substantial responses to your data requests.

When members of the Board of Commissioners offered to meet with you, you sought assurances that there would be no retaliation. When those assurances were provided, you again refused to meet, and instead, provided additional correspondence about your concerns. It became clear that the concerns were operational in nature. As I have stated many times now, the role of the Three Rivers Board of Commissioners is to establish and guide policy, while Three Rivers staff is responsible for operations. However, you have also refused to meet with staff to discuss your concerns.

Nonetheless, the Park District has reviewed your safety concerns. The Board and staff place the highest importance on the safety of park visitors. Staff are regularly monitoring and reviewing park procedures and industry standards to ensure safe operations. Park staff must take into account a number of factors on a daily basis to provide a safe environment at Hyland Hills. It is clear from your repeated claims and correspondence that you simply disagree with the operation of Hyland Hills.

Instead of engaging in a constructive dialogue, you have attempted to disparage the Park District by expanding the scope of your allegations, making unfounded allegations of corruption, and continuing to spread inaccurate information well beyond the scope of the Park District through your unsolicited correspondence and website. For these reasons, we see no productive benefit to the Park District to continuing this discourse. Please consider this message the last response on this matter.

John Gibbs

Chair, Three Rivers Park District Board of Commissioners

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