

Friends of Hyland

Friends of Hyland is a Citizen Action group formed in May, 2023, expressing concerns about Hyland Hills Ski and Snowboard Area in Bloomington. Hyland Hills is a publicly owned ski area operated by Three Rivers Park District (TRPD); a taxpayer funded government agency *established by the MN State Legislature in 1957.*

Friends of Hyland seeks positive changes in important areas of safety, equity, fiduciary responsibility, retaliation and accountability at Hyland Hills.

Our primary concerns are the following:

- * People – mostly children, our most vulnerable – are getting severely injured unnecessarily due to lack of ski-industry standard safety procedures and overcrowding.
- * Flagrant favors have been commonplace for 20-25 years at Hyland Hills. Over 1,000 children are marginalized each year because TRPD is bestowing these favors to a small and privileged group, at the expense of the majority of children who do not receive equitable access of facilities.
- * Taxpayer subsidies of these favors over this same period amount to an estimated \$6.6 – 10.2 million.
- * Park systems are established to provide enjoyment of public resources for everyone, regardless of socio-economic background, not to subsidize special interest groups. Privately run programs should not monopolize, charge for, or profit from, taxpayer owned assets, regardless of 501(c)3 status.
- * When people have spoken up about these concerns in the past, many have been retaliated against with job loss, loss of reputation, and unfair treatment of teams they represent. This and perceived threats of *retaliation* prevent more people from speaking up, thus *enabling the safety hazards, subsidies and injustices to persist.*

Friends of Hyland communicated concerns to the Board of Commissioners and suggested resolutions. We asked for justification for the continued favoritism shown to one private ski program, Team Gilboa. *The solutions are simple to implement with minimal cost.*

After eight months, we have received no answers, no justification and no reform from the Commissioners. *The problems persist each year.* All Friends of Hyland requests are aligned with TRPD policies that govern the park system. However, TRPD is not upholding these policies. These matters have been raised repeatedly for at least 15 years by many concerned patrons and citizens.

Friends of Hyland is now seeking assistance from MN state agencies and state/county representation. We appreciate support to encourage TRPD Commissioners to reform and uphold DEI policy, safety operations, and fiduciary responsibilities.

TRPD Leadership

Elected Commissioners

Chair John Gibbs
Vice Chair Jennifer DeJournett
Marge Beard
Louise Segreto
Erin Kolb

Commissioners Appointed by Hennepin County

Jesse Winkler
Jan Guenther



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Park District Superintendent - Boe Carlson