

Dishman Hills Natural Area Assn., Inc.
E. 10320 Maxwell Ave.
Spokane, WA 99206

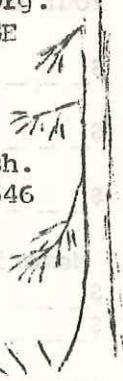
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July 1979



COMMISSIONERS APPROVE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT IN DISHMAN HILLS AREA BY 2 - 1 DECISION
ASSOCIATION IS SUING COUNTY BOARD
ASSOCIATION AND LOCAL CITIZENS REACT

The viewpoint of Dishman Hills Association and Citizens for the Protection of the Dishman Hills was summed up at last Friday's press conference at Camp Caro. We believe the commissioners' decision to approve the 78 houses on 81.5 acres in the Dishman Hills-Browne Mt. area is not in the public interest and that the board was not listening to the thousands of people who have contributed many thousands of dollars and countless hours of effort, written many letters and signed petitions to establish and protect the present natural area. Nor did it seem sensitive to the fact that not a single dwelling can be seen in any direction from the site of the proposed development, surrounded as it is by forest and wide open slopes. Furthermore, the board appeared to ignore or acquiesced to the fact that this development, if allowed, opens the door to development of the entire surrounding natural area, effectively preventing any enlargement of Dishman Hills Natural Area and threatening its present high quality. Furthermore, the board's decision comes on the eve of the adoption of the county comprehensive land use plan which includes the site in the Dishman Hills-Browne Mt.-Tower Mt. area proposed for no further development because of its diversified wildlife and unique character.

The means are available to protect the area. The Nature Conservancy, which joined in acquiring the first 80 acres of the present natural area, indicates strong support for acquiring the site and any other land needed. Washington Natural Heritage Program, working with the Con-

By now you are probably aware that Spokane County Board of County Commissioners July 9 approved "The Meadows", a housing development adjoining the Dishman Hills at the south end of Park Road. Commissioner Jerry Kopet said he had taken a careful look at the site, having walk, drive and flown over it and looked at the game trails. Ray Christensen said he had examined the soil and found it suitable for septic tanks and that the area was ideal for homes. Both voted approval. Harry Larned, voting against the project, made no comment.

Dishman Hills Association's board of directors at a special meeting July 11 voted unanimously to initiate a lawsuit against the commissioners. The association's board believes the decision ignored the many arguments against the development and is not in the public interest. Jack Montgomery, attorney for the association, estimated the case could be before the Superior Court in two months and that a decision might be handed down a month later. Court costs to the association were estimated at \$1500 - 2000 to try to block development proposals that have cast an ominous shadow over the Hills for the last year and a half. The project still has to comply with the provisions of the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA).

(cont. from column 1)
servancy, is indicating a strong interest in protecting the area with its high natural diversity. Our two associations are exploring all possibilities and are

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Please use this form when sending contributions to save the Dishman Hills.
Your dues and/or gift are income tax deductible.

\$ _____ Dishman Hills Assoc. annual dues (\$5 per person) New? _____ Renewal? _____

\$ _____ Dishman Hills Legal Defense Fund--URGENT!

\$ _____ Dishman Hills Land Fund--also URGENT!

Memorial gift to Land fund in remembrance of _____

\$ _____

\$ _____ Bulletin expense (\$1 or more)

Please make checks payable to Dishman Hills Natural Area Association and mail to David E. Lentes, Treasurer, E. 10922 23rd Ave., Spokane, WA 99206. Many thanks! To cut down on expense, no receipt or acknowledgment will be sent unless requested.

LIGHTS & SHADOWS FROM THE DISHMAN HILLS
July 1979

published by
DISHMAN HILLS NATURAL AREA ASSN., INC.
E. 10820 Maxwell Ave., Spokane, WA 99206
Phone (509) 926-7949

We are a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of some of the natural environment of the Spokane area for people to enjoy and learn from.

Helen E. Lininger, president
Thomas H. Rogers, vice-pres. & editor
William F. McMillan, secretary
David E. Lentes, treasurer

Directors (in addition to officers)
Doris Allgood Margaret Haggin
Roger W. Burwell LeRoy Hook
Omar E. Carroll William F. Marchand
Marvin D. Emerson Dale Pemberton
Bernice Hahn Ambrose Priestley

Monthly meetings are at Kiwanis Camp Caro, S. 625 Sargent Road, Dishman. Board meeting is at 7 p.m. and general meeting is at 8 p.m. the fourth Wednesday. You are cordially invited to attend both.

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starting a fund raising campaign to buy any land needed to protect the Hills. Donations are also needed to defray legal expenses of the lawsuit, since nearly all money on hand is being held to buy the 140 acres just south of the Nature Conservancy 80-acre preserve in the Hills.

We had sincerely hoped the Board of County Commissioners would have seen fit to help us protect the public investment in the natural area that a previous board of commissioners acquired, but such was not the case. We were forced into the lawsuit as the only means left to protect the Hills. With your help, we can do it. Please send your donation today, making it as generous as you can. A BIG THANKS!

TONY PRESTA MEMORIAL GIFTS RECEIVED

Relatives and friends of the late Tony Presta recently made memorial gifts to the Dishman Hills land fund and provided an attractive commemorative plaque in his honor, to be placed in the lodge at Camp Caro. We greatly appreciate this thoughtful, appropriate gift that will help preserve the Hills that Tony loved.

also decided that the rather steep, devious access road would be able to handle school buses and fire trucks and that the project would not add significantly to the pollution of the aquifer. Mr. Culler said the only viable argument against the proposal was the natural area adjacent to it but that it would not be fair to stop Mr. Rayner's project after he had already invested money in it, unless Rayner were compensated for his loss. He also contended that it would be impossible for our association to come up with the money to buy the area to preserve it. Dishman Hills Association and residents of the area were not given a chance to rebut any of the arguments of the developer and his staff, who gave their presentation after that of the association and the residents. Of course there was no chance to refute the arguments given for the approval. Mrs. Byrne, casting the dissenting vote, pointed out that the the proposal for nearly one house per acre was not compatible with use of the surrounding land but was at least one-fourth mile from any similar housing density, and that approval of the project would dictate the future land use for the entire area. Kennedy had included in his motion to approve, the stipulation that a Cyclone fence must be placed along the north and east sides of the development to protect the natural area to the north and east.

We have appealed the decision to the Spokane County Board of Commissioners.

One thing appeared quite plain to us: the committee members voting approval of the development did not feel obligated to base their decisions primarily on established zoning guidelines nor on the testimony presented, but rather felt free to let their own preconceived opinions influence them. The committee is appointed by the county commissioners, we understand, and so is not directly responsible to the public. Its decision in this case does not appear to us as likely to increase citizens' confidence in government intent to work for the good of the general public. The present 320-acre preserve represents citizen donations of over \$60,000 and about \$100,000 on state and federal matching funds. We believe this investment deserves to be protected.

THE LATEST ON RECYCLING--IT IS HELPING US TO SAVE THE DISHMAN HILLS

- Here's where to take your recyclables:
- PAPER: Spokane Recycling, E. 3407 Main, newspaper, corrugated cardboard, \$20/ton, also aluminum, 20¢/lb, 8-4:30 Mon thru Fri, 8-12 Sat.
CCI, E. 5113 Railroad, (news, junk mail, ce
real boxes, paper bags, directories, etc.) (no waxed or plastic), \$30/ton, 8-4:30 Mon-Fri.
- ALUMINUM: Kaiser, E. 210 Sprague, 20¢/lb 9-4 Tues-Sat.
Reynolds, E. 2515 Trent, 23¢/lb, 9-4:30 Tues-Sat.
- BEER BOTTLES: B & B Distributors, E. 3900 Main, Budweiser, Lucky Lager, 9-2 Mon-Fri.
Coors, E. 6715 Mission, 9-5 Mon-Sat.
Joey & Nick August, E. 4010 Alki, Rainier, Rheinlander, 11 oz. Old Bohemian, 10-4 Mon-Fri.
N.W. Distributors, E. 202 Riverside, Heidelberg, Cascade, Bohemian, 9-2 Fri.
Watkins Distributors, N. 1800 Langley, Olympia, Hamm's, Buckhorn, Ballantine, 10-3 Mon-Fri.

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