

Information Committee Member Statements

Members of the Information Committee had the opportunity to provide *Member Statements*. These statements were optional and are intended to provide:

- a chance for Delegates to learn a little bit more about the individuals who helped determine what information would be shared during the Assembly,
- transparency regarding the beliefs of IC members and/or the beliefs of the organizations they represent, and
- an outlet for IC members to provide direct input to the Assembly,

Dawson Metcalf

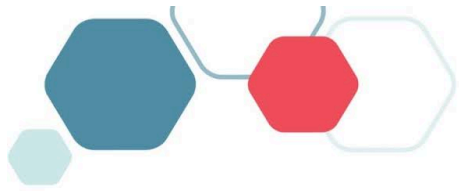
Natural Resources Advisory Board

The Hughes Stadium site presents an opportunity for our community to craft an outdoor space that embodies both ecological responsibility and social inclusivity. I urge the Assembly to consider adopting a "multi-use" plan that integrates ecological restoration with inclusive recreation options. For example, by linking open spaces with native species restoration and creating low-impact, fully accessible trails, we can enhance the corridor to Maxwell Natural Area for all types of recreation users, including those with mobility challenges. While preserving the disc golf course, we could build a low-impact wildlife viewing area and an outdoor classroom/amphitheater for educational programs, highlighting local and Indigenous history in partnership with Indigenous leaders. A special permitting system, co-managed by a local Indigenous-focused organization and the City's Natural Area Department, could also be developed for Indigenous ceremonies. If the inclusion of a bike park is deemed appropriate, I would encourage the development to the NE quadrant, so other priorities can be implemented.

Christina Swope

Community Guide

- 1) The deed to this land has been illegally transferred twice, and is rightfully and legally the property of native tribes.
- 2) There are many religious institutions in Fort Collins; mosques, temples, and churches, but there is no place for native peoples to practice their religion and rituals. Native peoples deserve freedom of religion and a place in which to do it.
- 3) It is morally the right thing to do to return the land that was wrongfully deeded to CSU back to the rightful owners. Indigenous people can and should be trusted as community leaders to properly care for the land
- 4) The city of Fort Collins has no funding for any of the other development proposals, there is no money for trails.
- 5) The indigenous stakeholders have plans that would appeal to many environmental groups. They will prioritize healing the land to best benefit the natural waterways, native ecology and wildlife.



6) The State of California has many precedents for legally rematriating land to tribes that have been pushed afar.

Holger Kley

Land Conservation & Stewardship Board (LCSB)

The Hughes site can't be separated from the City's Natural Area (NA) program. NAs conserve local and regional flora & fauna and the habitats that they form and are part of. Where it will not interfere with this mission, NAs allow public access and limited, appropriate recreation. NAs are not parks; they are not "multi-use".

The Hughes parcel is bordered by existing NAs: Maxwell & Pineridge. Uses of the site must account for impacts to those NAs: uses should not bring higher visitation within view or earshot of them nor should they funnel significantly higher recreation traffic to them. On the other hand, protecting the portions of the site with appropriate conservation value as a NA would enhance adjoining existing NAs. For other portions, low impact uses such as disc golf, a quiet gathering space for contemplation, or a small conservation campus are compatible. IC process timing did not allow our board to craft an official statement; the above, while informed by my experience on the board, are my words only.

Susan Baker

Wildlife & Nature Center

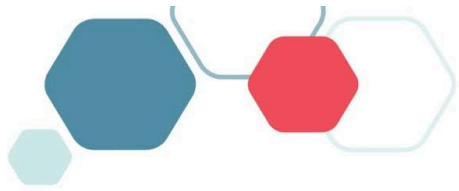
Fort Collins has a unique opportunity to create a Wildlife and Nature Center that will serve all residents. We can establish a gateway to our natural world, restore the land and foster stewardship action across our community. This center will protect local biodiversity and provide educational opportunities, imparting a deep connection between the community and nature. It will provide interpretive trails, educational programs about native animals and plants, and a place for community members to learn about science, conservation, and nature. By restoring the site to a grassland ecosystem, the center will create habitat for birds, mammals, and pollinators, enhancing the city's natural beauty.

The Wildlife and Nature Center will be a long-term, wildlife rescue and education space that inspires and connects all community members. The Rocky Mountain Raptor Program and Bird Conservancy of the Rockies will leverage strong financial backing to create and maintain this vital infrastructure and build a sustainable future for the Hughes site in Fort Collins.

Vara Vissa

Community Member

I would like to inform you, the randomly selected Citizen Assembly citizens of Fort Collins, that you are being put in a situation and a role that is unfair and burdensome. It may seem like an honor to represent the city, and help it move forward with a land use issue. Please know however that you are not elected representatives and have no legal power to make or



change a land use decision. You will be given numerous options and for each there will be contradictory opinions and perspectives. All these options (cleverly and forcefully being marketed as 'multi-use') have turned up after the ballot whose intent was quite clear passed successfully. So there seems to be a rush to grab land and push minority issue agendas, by finding loopholes and dragging this out till some group/s get something. This project is not to be used as a workshop in public discourse and deliberation. That time has passed. The citizens at large have already done that long range thinking, and envisioning - they did the heavy lifting through a very rigorous grassroots, truly democratic effort.

Wyatt Reiss

Community Member

I believe the Hughes Site should be transformed from an abandoned parking lot into a keystone, multi-use, community gathering place. The property's size makes it ideal for a mixed-use solution that addresses the community's diverse needs and wants, while the site's location ensures it is easily accessible to a broad range of residents. By emphasizing multiple uses, the site will provide outdoor recreation opportunities for people of all ages and socioeconomic backgrounds. A greater diversity of uses means that more groups, families, and individuals will enjoy and care for the land.

I envision an open space with multiple, coexisting elements: (1) a bike park intentionally designed to facilitate skill development for riders of all ages and abilities; (2) community gathering spaces; (3) trails connecting Maxwell and Pineridge to local neighborhoods; and (4) interspersed natural vegetation for bird and wildlife habitat. I implore the delegates to emphasize stakeholder collaboration and multi-use solutions in the final recommendations. Our City will be better for it.