

January 23, 2012

Seward Schools Site Based Council
Representing: Seward High School,
Seward Middle School
Seward Elementary School

To Mayor David Seaward, City Manager James Hunt,
City Council Members and the City of Seward:

The Seward Schools Site Based Council is an advisory council, which consists of: Principals, Teachers, Support Staff, Parents, Community Members, and a PTSA member. We meet every 2nd Thursday of the month during the school year and we met on January 10th, 2012 at 7 PM in the Seward High School. One of the items on our agenda was the KPB/Seward Land Exchange. This would be an exchange of property that was designated for our schools with property from the City of Seward. After reviewing the current land exchange packet and suggested Resolution 2012-001, much discussion ensued and the Seward Site Based Council reached consensus without objection.

Following are our concerns and the recommendations we hope will be used to develop a resolution more agreeable to all parties involved.

Our main concern with this land trade is **maintaining the safety and well-being of our students**. Also, due to the apparent inequitable trade (i.e. lack of access and future usability of the isolated parcel compared with the one given in exchange), we request the following items be included in the Exchange Document:

1. A replacement bike path will be constructed to allow access between Jesse Lee Subdivision and the ball fields connecting with the school bike path. This bike path will be 6' wide, paved and lighted.
2. Prior to removing the existing bike path through the parcel, the alternate bike path should be constructed so the children have continuous access.
3. The lighting for the bike path will be paid for and maintained by the City of Seward.
4. A 10' wide x 12' tall visual, natural, continuous buffer be established and maintained along the length of the parcel along the Seward Elementary School side.
5. A lighted, paved path (where there is currently a gap) connecting the north-south sidewalk, on the east side of the Seward Elementary School, with the raised asphalt path already in existence. The city had previously offered to provide this connection as well as the replacement of the asphalt path to Perry & Citizen's Fields.

6. No access will be built to the new parcel from Sea Lion Drive that would bring additional non-school traffic and congestion to the Elementary School area.
7. The Seward Site Council will be allowed to review and approve the plans before construction while changes can still be made for the safety of the students.

“Seward Schools Site Based Council recognizes the schools in the Seward area as a single site. We believe the strongest forum to best develop improvement plans for our schools is one comprehensive council with fair representation from all schools, working as one decision making team.”

Thanking you in advance for your time and consideration of our requests, SSSBC.

Sincerely,

Seward Schools Site Based Council
Julie Lindquist, President