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**From:** [Fred Weishaupl](#)

**To:** [Hanks Alan](#)

**Cc:** [Tom Lawrence](#) ; [Scott Aust](#) ; [Malcom Chapman](#) ; [Lloyd Lacroix](#) ; [Bill Okrepkie](#) ; [Karen Olson](#) ; [Ron Weifenbach](#) ; [Patti Martinson](#) ; [Aaron Costello](#) ; [Ron Kroeger](#) ; [Deb Hadcock](#) ; [Sam Kooiker](#)

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 11, 2009 11:04 AM

**Subject:** Soccer field appraisal

Mayor Hanks & Rapid City Council:

I agree with the editorial regarding the City making a decision and getting on with the program. However to be prudent with the taxpayers monies, it is imperative that you get an appraisal of the property being donated. The taxpayers are getting the perception that there is some not so honest politics going on because of the City's reluctance to require an appraisal with the "donation" of the property on Elk Vale Rd. And since it has been almost 2 years since the property was "donated" the Soccer Assn. will only have 3 years to get there act and funds together to show that work is being accomplished. IT IS MY OPINION THAT THE 5 YEAR PROGRESS ISSUE BE DROPPED FROM THE "DONATION".

Secondly, since the donor has another issue with the City for allegedly not building streets to City standards, then the City should not accept the donated property until the lawsuit has been settled. If you do not settle the lawsuit, the donated property can be used as a lever against the City, not only by the donor but by the Soccer Assn. There is nothing stopping the Soccer Assn. from campaigning for funds to build the soccer fields somewhere in the City, so fundraising can begin and continue until a suitable site is chosen.

Personally, I feel that Elk Vale Rd. is not the best site because it is to the northeast of the City and the City's growth is to the east, south and west. The Wally Byum site would be better situated for the City as whole, and it has water and sewer readily available to the site. Also the Elk Vale Rd. site is subjected to inundation during rains and it would cost literally hundreds of thousands of dollars to import dirt to make the site suitable for soccer field and/or other field events.

So bottom line, yes it is imperative to make a decision, but it needs to be the right one and there should not be a condition with the donation. It appears that the property owner is seeking to have his cake and eat it too. First he gets a tax write-off for the donation and then has a great chance of getting the property returned to him in 5 years. You aware of the old saying "If it looks like a duck and it walks like duck and sounds like a duck, then it must be a duck", maybe the City should duck this "donation". This deal looks suspiciously like the City should procede with caution, because it is afterall the taxpayers monies that will come from the 2012 fund and possibly from the taxpayers to fund the infrastructure either directly or through the mis-use of the TIF as is common in Rapid City.

Fred Weishaupl