

**14PD019**

**From:** Larry Thompson [<mailto:lartango@rap.midco.net>]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 11, 2014 5:47 PM  
**To:** Lacock Fletcher  
**Subject:** Skyline Wilderness Development

Thank you for your visit with you this afternoon.

As I mentioned in our discussion, my main concern has to do with security at the proposed parking areas along Skyline Drive. In particular, I (and my neighbors) are concerned about the area where Skyline Drive will be re-routed and a parking area with restroom are proposed. The area is currently a common hangout for parties late at night. There is one garbage can in the area but trash continues to be dropped over the rock retaining wall and on the ground. Recently, an individual wandered into our cul-de-sac (North Grand Vista Court) from Skyline Drive. He stated he had been partying on Skyline and wanted a ride downtown. He had paint cans in his pockets and was very intoxicated. Thanks to the help of Police Chief Jegeris and other patrol officers the person was taken into custody. Graffiti is regularly spray painted on the rock retaining wall face and top.

Recently the Parks Department has been doing a good job of picking up the trash and other garbage thrown over the rock retaining wall. A "Park Closed at 10:00 pm" sign has been placed on the shoulder of the road but we can still hear parties and see trash thrown about. My wife and I use Skyline Drive as our morning walk and just this week, as we were approaching the pull-out near Floreman Street, we saw a male and female fighting. Both appeared to be intoxicated and the male was yelling and hitting the female. Before we could call police, the male grabbed the female and put her in his car and roared off.

The point of these stories is to emphasize the fact that the current gravel pull-out attracts parties, gang graffiti, trash and intoxicated people. A larger parking lot seems to only make the attractiveness of such activities more likely.

Therefore, I would ask that steps be taken to diminish the likelihood of unwanted activity. Parking lot lighting should go a long way to making the area less attractive for people to hang out in. Security cameras would allow police to identify people who continue to litter and deface the area. Perhaps the police department can suggest other options to help alleviate the problem.

Consequently, unless steps are taken to reduce the use of this area for parties, I would strongly object to the approval of this project. Unfortunately, I will be out of town when the next hearing on this issue is before Council but would ask that my comments and suggestions be added to the record.

Larry Thompson  
1632 N. Grand Vista Ct.  
Rapid City, SD