



Wednesday, August 13, 2003

Debate rages over design of proposed Bass Lake Park

Overflow crowd addresses Board of Supervisors

By Ryan Rose

Wednesday, August 13, 2003

An “overflow” crowd arrived at the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors’ meeting last Monday to continue the debate over designs of the new Bass Lake Park.

The meeting was called to take residents’ comments over the park’s design; the comments will then be used to create an Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

The meeting drew a large crowd of young people worried about the park’s future.

“There was a lot of youth there, and they got a chance to share their feelings...and got to witness the democratic process,” said Dave Glazier of the Bass Lake Action Committee, a group developed by immediate residents surrounding the park site.

Members of youth groups and sports leagues attended the meeting thinking the park would not be built at all.

“The kids came out to plead for the park, but there is no one opposing the construction,” said Glazier.

He believes the residents around the proposed park site are in favor of a park, just not its current design.

“By and by, there is no one opposed to the park. It is just how it affects the residential area,” said Glazier.

Not constructing the park, however, is an option the county provided the community members.

“They provided us three options: the park is built with lights, in two phases; the park is built without lights, in two phases; the park is not built at all.”

Glazier’s group raised concerns over the park’s proposed lighting system and possible late night noise.

“All residents are entitled to the quiet enjoyment of their property,” said Glazier.

The nighttime noise and lights would interrupt the daily life of the residents who inhabit the area said Glazier.

The Bass Lake Action Committee also believes the purposed security plan is inadequate.

“They have no way of securing the park at night,” said Glazier.

Members of the community also addressed concerns about the threat of asbestos.

“One woman brought a map from the Bureau of Mines...she pointed to areas that may contain asbestos harmful to children,” said Glazier.

The county, which has performed soil tests, disputes claims there are harmful levels of asbestos. Their soil report will be released in the coming week.

All parties did agree on one thing: Bass Lake Road is unsafe, and not suitable as a road into the proposed park.

The road had been scheduled for redevelopment, but funding raised for the construction was moved elsewhere said Glazier.

“Now, they [the county] needs more development to fund the road.”

In the end, members of the Bass Lake Action Committee want a park—one for the youth, not a “mega-sports complex.”

“There needs to be some sort of compromise,” said Glazier.

The EIR process will begin Aug. 21, setting a deadline for community comments. The Bass Lake Action Committee eagerly anticipates the results.

“We are content letting the State mandated process to take its course,” said Glazier.

The next meeting to discuss the park is to be announced.