

From: Casandra Taliaferro <casandra@mateel.org>  
Sent: Thursday, January 05, 2017 2:08 PM  
To: Planning Clerk  
Subject: Support of So Hum Park Zoning Change

Humboldt County Board of Supervisors:  
825 Fifth Street, Room 111  
Eureka, CA 95501

Dear Supervisors:

Re: SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC RECREATION ZONING FOR

THE SOUTHERN HUMBOLDT COMMUNITY PARK

I originally wrote and sent this letter almost a decade ago, and hopefully will be the last time I need to submit it in support of the parks rezoning.

The Southern Humboldt Community Park is a gem, as proved by the hundreds of community members that attended the park meetings held in 2009 at the Mateel Community Center and the Park Barn and hopefully again tonight at the public hearing.

I personally have spent hundreds of hours at the park not only recreationally; walking the trails, swimming in the river and picking blackberries but also socially; painting kids faces on Easter and volunteering for Walk for the Park.

Sentimentally the park will always be in my memory, dancing at the first wedding held in wedding grove, celebrating my 10 year high school reunion at Tooby Park, laughing at my nephew's baby shower at the playground and mourning during my father's memorial that was held in the Barn.

The park is also economically important as my last three jobs have related directly to the park. I spent hours deep in the gullies surrounded by poison oak building brush dams to stabilize the gullies as a Watershed Restoration Bio-Engineer. This was a grant funded project which I was

fortunate to work with Nicks Interns, a program teaching youth life/work skills, sharing bio-engineering techniques and passing on the importance of stream restoration. I was employed as a wedding coordinator for a wedding in Wedding Grove. Currently, I'm a seasonal employee of the Mateel Community Center helping with Festival Operations. We have been looking forward to co-promoting events with the park for over a decade.

My family has personally invested thousands of dollars the park purchase, park improvements, donations of tools, as well as hundreds of man hours in donated time and labor. We were one of the first families that invested in the original Community Supported Agriculture (CSA). And now support the farm stand at the Farmers Market.

We would like to invest in infrastructure and the vision to build a legacy for our children and grandchildren. Since the first inception of this letter, I've had two children and my experience with the park has only grown, we go to the playground frequently, the river, the trails, the birthday parties and easter egg hunts. I look forward to the actualization of the vision this community has created for this very special piece of land.

Arcata has the Community Forest, Fortuna has Rohnert Park, Blue Lake has Perigot Park, Eureka has the Sequoia Park, please let Garberville maintain and polish the gem that is the Southern Humboldt Community Park.

I FULLY SUPPORT A REZONING TO PUBLIC RECREATION.

With respect and gratitude,

Casandra, Shanon, Trey and Paige Taliaferro