

Jenna McCartney

From: Lynn Hainer
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2017 8:52 AM
To: Jenna McCartney
Cc: Cyndi Vink; Donna Kurchak; Janet Thompson; Nichole Everitt; Jim Craigmile; Jason Silcox; Grant Brouwer; Brent Kittmer
Subject: Correspondence for: Re: 03 20 2017 AAC agenda package

AAC Committee,

Please include this as correspondence and forward to Council.

Sorry I am not able to attend this am; I wanted to share with you my most pressing concern.

The budget of this playground was to ensure that this was a premium playground for all.

The use of solid surfacing is the preferred surfacing for true accessibility for playgrounds (whether that be poured or tile product). The introduction of wood chips (or similar) reduces the ability for those with mobility and vision issues to use that part of the playground. And in fact, the transition between the 2 surfaces becomes unsafe for these and many other users.

The current design will make the swings unreachable by those in wheelchairs or other mobility devices. To validate this, have any children or families with children with disabilities been sought for their opinions on this element of the playground. As I represent one such family, this is my personal experience. If unsure, do a test down at East Ward park with an occupied wheelchair, stroller or walker.

The code may say that this material is acceptable for accessible use, but in practice, it is not.

My recommendation is that a solid surface be used under the complete playground area. This is the only way, in my opinion, to meet Council's original goal of a premier, fully accessible playground.

Respectfully,

Lynn Hainer
Councillor
AAC Member