

Joanna Sanders

From: Lisa Witt.Widner <lisadesigns2001@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 9, 2022 8:27 AM
To: Joanna Sanders; Joanna Sanders
Subject: August 10th - agenda item - Widner proposal

Good morning! (Photos will accompany this in person)...

(The Problem:)

Point Hudson hosts many people through all seasons - everyone is drawn to our shores, and for good reason. Tourists flock to the campgrounds, locals meet friends and walk dogs along the perimeter, but rarely can you find a place to sit and rest. Perhaps nowhere is this shown more clearly than during our annual Wooden Boat Festival, when large amounts of people fill Point Hudson, and a large number of those folks are seniors. Surveys (during Festival) have told us repeatedly that the biggest negative factor of the Festival is that there are no resting spots along the route, and that it factors into their returning. Sitting places to pause and rest are scarce.

My project will allow Point Hudson to provide this service, and it will not draw on anyone's budget to do so. Win-win-win.

(The Solution:)

I am proposing a BENCH-BUILD CONTEST, open to the community at large, with a nominal entry fee and cash prizes for each category. I am proposing approximately 12 bench categories, such as "most creative", "most see-worthy", memorial, etc., and will use a simple wood plank design that can then be embellished by the participant. The bench design is the same as those that have been placed in several parks throughout town - they can easily be spotted at the Kah Tai Lagoon - and contestants may build to those specifications, or I may offer a "kit" for sale as a simpler alternative. (The integrity of the bench must not be compromised by the design.)

Each bench will be matched with a business who agrees to sponsor the yearly maintenance of the bench.

To the best of my knowledge, each of the proposed sites are within Port jurisdiction, with no site considered part of the city's scope. I have checked in with John McDonagh in order to be sensitive to environmental, historical, and other factors to be considered. I have walked the route with folks from the Port as well as the Maritime Center, who have made suggestions for best placement. For the sake of reference, two wooden benches were discovered on the water side, and no one seems to know the who, how or when of them, but they have obviously seen many, many years of shoreline storms and heat and have retained (with no maintenance!) their structural integrity to an amazing degree. They are quiet gems that hold space for all of us and gently invite us to pause and breathe deeply. This project is excited to add more places just like those.

All of this is just beginning to take form, and I welcome any and all suggestions to make this a truly community-inspired project!

Thank you for your consideration!

- Lisa. - Another American for Peace -