Mike Smith

From: Nancy Lillquist
Sent: Monday, September 02, 2013 10:55 PM
To: Ted Barkley; Mike Smith
Subject: FW: my non-motorized ideas

This is addressed to the Council, but I'm not sure if all council members received this... can you forward and/or print for Tuesday meeting please?

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Messages to and from this e-mail address subject to public disclosure

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From: Forsythe@fairpoint.net [forsythe@fairpoint.net]
Sent: Monday, September 02, 2013 5:28 PM
To: Nancy Lillquist
Subject: my non-motorized ideas

September 2,
2013

Hello City Council members,
I was on the non-motorized committee which met over the course of about a year and a half, a couple years ago. This committee was created by the city to provide feedback to city council and city planners, about how to make the city friendly to people going from place to place without cars. Many of us spent time faithfully every month, reading notes and reports of other towns and what they've chosen to do to support non-motorized transportation. We had good discussions with a variety of people, representing the building community, walkers, bicyclers, wheel chair users, and the community at our public events. We had CWU involved, since they're a major factor in Ellensburg, and we had the fire department who told us what works and what doesn't. We had our city staff to say what works, what to consider, and what's allowed.

What you see in the proposal at hand is the result of hours of work, thousands of hours amongst the whole group. And why did we do it? Because we value Ellensburg and want to perpetuate the good things about the city as we go into the future. My dad did summer programs in Glacier Park for years. Charlie was famous as the guy who talked about the Near Look and the Far Vision. Yes, we have to see what will work for us in the here and now, but keep your eyes on the prize: having Ellensburg be a town preparing itself for the future. More and more people are interested in getting

around without using fossil fuels and vehicles; people are encouraged to be out moving instead of being couch potatoes or obese. Regular people value having streets that are conducive, safe and pleasant for walking and bicycling.

So when we start talking about the nitpicky parts of that reports, know that we discussed those things for hours! The building community may want rolled curbs because it saves them money- but the wheel chair using community says it's hard to deal with them. The same folks might want to give up the planting strips, but they create a much safer environment for walkers, create a pleasant streetscape, and their trees shade the streets, use up carbon dioxide and provide oxygen. Width of streets? We wouldn't force anyone to build 20' streets, but providing choices for narrower streets creates the opportunity to have more really neat neighborhoods like the historic district. Throw in 50 years and some classic street trees and Voila! These are just a few examples of the detailed things we talked about for hours.

You have the opportunity to look to the future- the Far Vision. The housing and building industry may want unlimited flexibility, but is that what we want as a community? If they do their job well, there will be a variety of housing available, in a town that people really want to live in, and we will have done what we ought to-making Ellensburg a good town in which to live.

Sincerely, Kay Forsythe