
Request for Findings of Fact and Public Presentation Regarding Trout Lane and Floodplain Administration

From Suzanne Wrede <swrede@bellevueidaho.us>

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To Christina Giordani <cgiordani@bellevueidaho.us>

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Mayor Giordani,

I wanted to support the recommendation you made at the last City Council meeting about holding a Town Hall regarding the Trout Lane and floodplain concerns. I think that could be a helpful way to bring the current discussion to a more constructive conclusion and give residents a clear forum for questions and answers.

To help make that Town Hall productive, I believe the City should prepare and publish written Findings of Fact in advance. That way, residents, applicants, staff, and Council can all work from the same factual record, and the meeting can focus on the City's findings, remaining questions, and any appropriate next steps.

Numerous residents have expressed concerns regarding the administration of the Trout Lane application, reports of City involvement in activities occurring on private property, the handling of floodplain-related matters, and whether regulations and procedures have been administered consistently across applicants.

In my view, the most effective way to address these concerns is through transparency, documentation, and a clear accounting of the facts.

Accordingly, I would like to request that the City prepare and publish written Findings of Fact addressing:

- Actions taken by City staff in connection with the Trout Lane application;
- The basis, authorization, and process for any City assistance, support, labor, equipment, materials, services, or other public resources that may have been provided in connection with activities occurring on private property;

- What corrective, remedial, reimbursement, enforcement, administrative, or other actions are available to the City if the findings identify misuse of public resources, inconsistent application of regulations, departures from established procedures, or other violations of applicable standards.

Because the issues raised involve questions of City administration, public resources, regulatory consistency, and public confidence, I would also request that consideration of this Findings of Fact request be placed on the agenda of the next regular City Council meeting. Doing so would allow Council members the opportunity to ask questions, identify additional areas of inquiry they believe should be addressed, and determine whether the preparation of formal findings should be directed as a matter of City business.

Given the level of public interest and the number of residents who have expressed concerns regarding these matters, Council discussion of the scope and process for preparing the Findings of Fact would itself promote transparency and help ensure public confidence in the completeness and impartiality of the review.

To allow sufficient time for public review, I respectfully request that the written findings be completed and made publicly available no later than seven (7) days prior to the proposed Town Hall meeting, or, if a Town Hall date has not yet been established, no later than fourteen (14) days from the date of this request.

I would further request that the Town Hall serve as the forum for presentation of the findings and provide an opportunity for residents to ask questions regarding the City's conclusions, supporting documentation, and any proposed next steps arising from those findings.

I believe this approach would help establish a common factual foundation, reduce misunderstanding, and demonstrate the City's commitment to transparency, accountability, equal application of its regulations, and responsible stewardship of public resources.

This request is not intended to prejudice any individual, department, applicant, or outcome. However, transparency requires not only a clear understanding of the facts but also a clear understanding of whether applicable standards were followed and what actions are available to the City when they are not. Residents deserve confidence that public resources are protected, regulations are administered consistently, and that accountability mechanisms exist and will be utilized when warranted by the facts.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. I believe a transparent review and public presentation of the facts would be an important step toward resolving many of the concerns that have been raised and would help demonstrate the City's commitment to openness, fairness, accountability, and good governance.

Respectfully,

Suzanne Wrede