

Purgitt, Jennifer

From: Andrea Juillerat-Olvera
Sent: Monday, February 26, 2018 10:51 AM
To: Wallace-Barnum Colleen;
Subject: Mayberry Park and River School Farm area

To Mr. Doug Doolittle,

Greetings, I am a proud Reno native, who came back to the area after nearly 20 years of being gone. One of the reasons I came back was because I saw that Reno had 'grown up' – it was no longer the trashy two-bit tourist town I left in the 1980s, it had diversified, wonderfully. Now, I am proud to be a resident and native of the area. Of all the things Reno has to offer, its parks and recreation areas top my list. My husband and I are avid walkers and photographers, we love the Mayberry park area at the River School Farm. It has always been available to us, open, accessible and beautiful.

Anytime friends come to visit, I like to show them areas outside of the downtown corridor and away from casinos, so they can see that Reno has a healthy, positive lifestyle to offer. One of my favorite places to take visitors is the River School Farm Mayberry Park area. The landscaping is gorgeous, and I'm proud to say, sustainable - planted with a careful eye toward the regions water scarcity and high desert climate. The River School Farm is a special place, something that makes Reno unique and adds to the diversification behind Reno's new identity. How wonderful that we are finally something besides a gambling town! We are **Artown**, we are a recreational oasis with tons of gorgeous spots along the river for people to enjoy all year around, and we know how to have good, clean, fun too. I hope that Reno Parks and Recreation will continue to support the River School Farm's existence as a public park space and venue for community building and experiential learning.

Since I've frequently attended evening events and performances at RSF, I'm aware of the 10pm sound curfew. Tom and Iris respect the neighborhood around them, and work to keep their activities within reasonable hours. This is why I think the complaints about RSF are both uncharitable, and short sighted. What the RSF contributes to Reno parks and recreation far outweighs the complaints by a few selfish, entitled citizens. Reno cannot be "silent" for anyone, we are living, growing, vibrant metropolitan area.

I'm also a homeowner, and my neighbors have dogs, kids, loud cars, they play music, have BBQs, and we are all able to tolerate one another. Why? **I think we understand that patience and respect for different lifestyles are the cornerstones of a great community.**

I strongly support the RSF and all they give to Reno, some of my best memories are dancing barefoot in that open grassy meadow they maintain, on summer evenings, under the first stars.

Sincerely,
Andrea Juillerat-Olvera

Purgitt, Jennifer

From: Jim Dakin
Sent: Monday, February 26, 2018 2:29 PM
To:
Cc: Tom Stille; Wallace-Barnum Colleen
Subject: River School Farm - Support Letter

Dear Mr. Doolittle,

I am writing this email in support of Tom Stille and the River School Farm. These days, what the world needs is a renewed sense of community. I have known Tom for almost 20 years. Tom is, at his core, all about community. And what he has created at the River School Farm is the manifestation of his commitment to that value. He is a genuine steward of the land as evidenced by the improvements and continuous maintenance of what has come to be known as Mayberry Gardens. Through the years, immeasurable happiness and joy has happened as a result of the experiences people have had at River School Farm and the adjacent Mayberry Gardens. Please allow this to continue so that people from all walks of life can have uninterrupted use of this land, truly a gem of the Truckee Meadows.

In Gratitude,

Jim Dakin

Purgitt, Jennifer

From: sarah brown ,
Sent: Monday, February 26, 2018 12:41 PM
To: Wallace-Barnum Colleen;
Subject: Mayberry Gardens

Mr. Doolittle, I am writing this email in regards to the Public space at Mayberry Gardens, and the River School involvement. I have visited the River School Farms and Mayberry Garden area many times, and think of it as one of Reno's most unique park areas.

I think the River School's involvement with the park is what makes it such a special place, and i'd hate to see our community loose this space and unique character turned over to another entity.

I believe any of the noise or other issues neighbors are hacing could be handled with time and use restrictions, but do not necessitate handing over the management or changing the types of use this area has been used for for so long.

Thank you for your consideration.

Purgitt, Jennifer

From: Katy Chandler
Sent: Monday, February 26, 2018 10:19 AM
To:
Cc: Wallace-Barnum Colleen
Subject: River School Farm

Dear Mr Doolittle, I am writing to voice my passionate supportive of the River School Farm's work in stewarding the portion of Mayberry Park known as Mayberry Gardens. The work they have done to beautify the park is second to none. They have planted hundreds of native and food bearing perennials including a near continuous presence of beautiful flowers. It is a stunning example of how to work with the natural world, and it is a place where I (and so many others) go to be inspired and find great ideas for working with nature in my own garden. It is also one of my family's favorite public spaces in Reno. We go there to play on the grass, swim in the river, hike along the Truckee, share meals with friends, and have a beautiful experience of our natural region right here within the city. We have also enjoyed Art Town events there and love that the River School is also open to the public next door so that our sons can enjoy the farm and play in the amphitheater and dance studio. It's an amazing place! A really truly fantastic place that the River School has cared for and kept open to the public for more than 20 years. Mayberry Gardens is one of the best gifts we, as Reno residents, have received. Please accept my deep gratitude for the incredible collaboration of the Washoe County Parks Commission and River School Farm.

Sincerely,
Kathleen Chandler

On Feb 26, 2018 9:32 AM, "Katy Chandler" wrote:

On Feb 23, 2018 10:59 AM, "Iris Stille" wrote:

Hello River School Farm Supporters,

Please read the attached letter that we received from a Washoe County Deputy District Attorney on September 25, 2017.

After several meetings and emails with the District Attorney's office and Washoe County Parks personnel over the past few months, our case will be heard at the March 6, 2018 meeting of the Washoe County Park Commission.

We need your support.

Would you please send an email to the chairman of the Washoe County Park Commission Doug Doolittle in support of our efforts in developing and managing the lawn area, trees and flowers that we call "Mayberry Gardens" located next to our amphitheater area. See attachment "self guiding tour" for a map showing Mayberry Gardens and our property. If you need more information, please email or call Tom. He will send you more information.

Points that could be made in your email include the following or be creative from your own "Mayberry Gardens" experiences.

Purgitt, Jennifer

From: gwendalyn gilliam
Sent: Sunday, February 25, 2018 3:16 PM
To:
Cc: Wallace-Barnum Correen; Tom Stille
Subject: River School farm

Hello Mr. Doolittle,

Just wanted you to know how much the open gardens at Mayberry Gardens means to me and to many of my friends. I have happy memories of petting the gentle goats and watching the chickens run their pens.

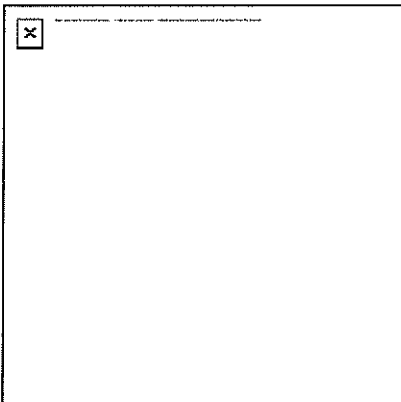
I personally can't imagine the beautiful music that is played there during events bothering anyone. I'm surprised anything can be heard above the river's rushing.

I hope to have many more lovely experiences there as we watch ourselves grow together into a ripe old age.

With Much Gratitude and Happiness,

Gwendalyn Gilliam

Happy Business Consultant
HAPPY NEIGHBORHOOD PROJECT
"Too Happy to Fail!"



Purgitt, Jennifer

From: Jim Eaglesmith
Sent: Sunday, February 25, 2018 1:16 PM
To: Wallace-Barnum Colleen
Subject: mayberry

Greetings Doug et al,

A resident of Reno since the 70's ive watched the changes over time.

I would love to see the area of Mayberry Gardens continue to be used for Artown events, Art tours, public recreation and preserved in its natural habitat.

It remains, as does the River School Farm, one of our areas Jewels to be respected and preserved. I know Tom as a lifelong Nature Conservationist dedicating his life toward renewing the existing resources in our area and trust his judgement in these matters.

respectfully,

jim eaglesmith

Purgitt, Jennifer

From: Bill Newhall
Sent: Saturday, February 24, 2018 3:12 PM
To:
Cc: Wallace-Barnum Colleen
Subject: Mayberry Park / Mayberry Gardens

Dear Mr Doolittle,

We are writing on behalf of our neighbors (and neighborhood) to support and convey our love for Mayberry Gardens. We have lived very close to Mayberry Park since 1977 and have spent much time over the years enjoying the park and the river. We have also watched the park through alternating periods of development and neglect. Over the past 25 years or so, much has been done to develop the park into the wonderful public space that it is today. In 2001, we built our current house directly across the bike path from Tom Stille's property and the small area of the park now known as Mayberry Gardens.

At that time, the River School was just a wonderful idea but Tom had already begun working with the Parks Department to transform the segment of park land between his property and the river from a barren plot into a sculptured garden for all to enjoy. Tom had the support of the Parks Department for this project but the significant resources for planning and development have been fully donated by Tom. He has also done much to encourage public utilization of the park and gardens. He has created spaces for meetings and for performances. He has organized and coordinated public gatherings for many purposes including Arttown events. All of his efforts related to the park and the gardens have been community-oriented and, although he has given generously to the park, he has never been motivated by personal gain. We are very appreciative of what he has done and we feel very fortunate to live near such a beautiful and generous space. The River School and the Gardens have continued to be a source of pride and joy for us.

We have enjoyed being part of the many events and using the lovely area to play and entertain friends. We have found the Stilles to be wonderful neighbors and extremely responsive to all requests and concerns. They are, in fact, proactive and leaders with regard to our environment, learning opportunities, community organization and demonstration. We are honored to be associated in spirit and location.

We are fully aware and appreciative however of the concerns that some of our neighbors have about noise from the park and the Gardens during public events. We built our house adjacent to a public park and thus expect a reasonable amount of noise from spontaneous or planned events. In fact, we love to see the park used for public gatherings. Tom and Iris set and enforce absolute rules for noise levels and times at events over which they have control. These rules correspond to local laws but they also reflect respect for neighbor's concerns. When problems related to these events occur, we have always had a very positive and effective response from those running events. We do find the music a joy especially the drummings that happen each month! When music is part of events, it stops promptly at 10 PM. We love to see that the river is celebrated and enjoyed by family and friends.

Additionally, the Arttown events are fabulous and joyful. The gardens are inspiring and beautiful to walk in. The artwork is original and the River school always available and generous to everyone. We love to bring our grandchildren to visit the animals and walk on the paths. Except for the deer gates, public access has never been restricted and Tom and Iris are always available for advice and kind words to everyone. The River School and its environs are examples of environmental leadership in our community and we fully support all efforts for its future.

Thank you for this opportunity to support our neighbors,

Lynn and Bill Newhall



Purgitt, Jennifer

From: Maria Partridge
Sent: Friday, February 23, 2018 2:48 PM
To: Wallace-Barnum Colleen;
Subject: Mayberry Gardens and the River School

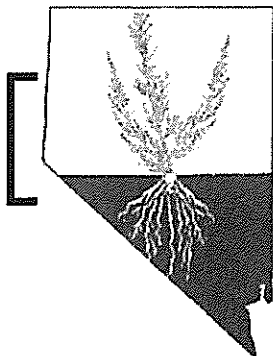
Dear Doug Doolittle,

Mayberry Garden is a delightful place to wander around and we love to bring guests. This part of Mayberry Park is where we start our walks with the dogs on a weekly basis. It is a benefit to the neighborhood and brings people from all over Reno because of its proximity to the river. The Gardens are always open and they are a fun addition near the access to the Park.

The River School hosts wonderful workshops and is a pleasure to visit. Art, yoga, performance ...are just a few of the educational /community outreach programs offered. I have been to drumming and gong meditations during Artown as well as art shows and fire performances. The sound is generally ambient and always ends at 10:00 as per city ordinance.

Best,

Maria Partridge



Comstock Seed

February 26, 2018

From the desk of
Ed Kleiner
General Manager Comstock Seed

To Washoe County Park Commission
Doug Doolittle
RE: The River School Farm and surrounding county park lands

Dear Mr. Doolittle;

I came to Reno in 1969 when my father, Ed Kleiner Sr, joined the faculty at UNR. I recall as a student at Reno High School the day a truck load of strawberries floated through town when a truck driver chose the wrong bridge while coming into Reno from the west. The area where the River Fork Ranch now sits looked much like the current perimeter of the Truckee Meadows, disturbed lands, weeds, etc.. We've come a long way since then with park development and riparian corridor improvements that are all but unanimously appreciated by all. I am currently watching all the wonderful changes to the Truckee Meadows from my farm in Gardnerville.

Over the years, Tom Stille has played such an influential role in putting a responsible and beautiful footprint onto the urban development in Reno. Most importantly, his role in moving our landscapes towards the native species and the drought tolerance that is so important today.

Evidently, he has issues with neighbors across the river. Tom is well networked into the social fabric of Reno in such diverse and positive ways and his notoriety has brought him a following at all levels of our region; indeed he is famous with the local landscaping industry. His improvement to the public property adjacent to his private parcel should be considered an asset to all who frequent the river corridor for recreation and enjoyment of the open space preserved. The frequent use of this property for various positive activities can only attest to the true value of this asset.

I suspect that the issues related to light and noise can be mitigated without reverting the space back to a pile of weeds and rocks that it once was. It would be hard to stretch the costs to outweigh the benefits of the current use of this land. Last, in a fiscal sense the county should be thrilled to have such a beneficiary expending private sweat equity for the benefit of the public; the county has enough challenges with budgeting all the work they currently have for the growing park lands in the Truckee Meadows.

I request that you please find a happy medium to allow for the coexistence of this lovely part of town with the slowly expanding urban growth that surrounds the River Farm.

Sincerely;

Ed Kleiner Jr.

.....
Office
Office Fax

Purgitt, Jennifer

From: Gina MacLellan
Sent: Friday, February 23, 2018 1:54 PM
To:
Cc: Wallace-Barnum Colleen;
Subject: Support of River School Farms

Good afternoon,

I am writing in support of River School Farm and their efforts in developing and managing the lawn area, trees and flowers for "Mayberry Gardens". These "Gardens" have been open to the public since approved improvements were made in 1993. These "Gardens" benefit so many people in our area. What a wonderful spot for our children to learn about gardening and all that is involved in growing healthy foods. As Reno continues to grow, we have less and less spaces such as this. We are very fortunate to have the owners of River School Farms willing to keep this area open to the public. Please allow them to continue on with their efforts.

Sincerely,

Gina MacLellan

Purgitt, Jennifer

From: Joseph Galata
Sent: Friday, February 23, 2018 1:50 PM
To: Wallace-Barnum Colleen;
Subject: RE: "Mayberry Gardens and Riverschool Farm"

Dear Mr. Doolittle and Ms. Wallace-Barnum:

It has come to my attention that Mr. and Mrs. Tom Stille - owners of the Riverschool farm and volunteer caretakers for 24 years of the area known as "Mayberry Gardens" are to appear before the Washoe County Park Commission on March 6, 2018.

It is my opinion that Mr. and Mrs. Stille take generous care of the area at no cost to the taxpayer.

Their purpose is threefold:

- 1) to enhance the environmental and ecological beauty of Washoe County.
- 2), to offer public opportunities for either individual contemplation and meditation - whether in turbulent or joyful times.
- 3) to produce opportunities for community artists e.g., musical presentations as participants in Reno's Art Town.

As a supporter of the Stille's artistic-humanitarian- environmental contributions to Washoe County, I am advocating that the Mayberry Gardens should be appreciated by the Washoe County Park Commission.

Thank you,

Joseph Galata
Reno, Nevada

Purgitt, Jennifer

From: Amanda Burden on behalf of Amanda Burden
Sent: Friday, February 23, 2018 12:55 PM
To:
Cc: Wallace-Barnum Colleen; Iris Stille; Jaci Goodman
Subject: Mayberry Gardens

Hi there,

I hope you're doing well today.

You will be hearing a case on Mayberry Gardens on March 6 at the Washoe County Parks Commission. I wish to voice my support of the space.

I have attended several events in the Gardens over the years. I always marvel at how beautiful the area is and feel fortunate to be able to enjoy the environment there. It's a little slice of heaven right on the river. The Gardens have been lovingly maintained by River School Farm's owners and others, and their work shows.

I hope you will allow them to continue hosting public events, art tours, garden education, and Artown events there. The space has been a wonderful benefit to the community.

Best,

Amanda

Amanda Burden, Publisher/Editor
edible Reno-Tahoe/edible Sacramento magazine
EdibleRenoTahoe.com
EdibleSacramento.com

Follow us on Facebook at EdibleRenoTahoe &
EdibleSacramento

Winner of 16 awards by the Nevada Press Association in 2017

Check out the latest issues here:

<http://www.ediblerenotahoe.com/editorial/drinks-2018>

<http://ediblesacramento.com/editorial/drinks-2018>