



Seldovia Gazette

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Thursday, Feb. 16, 2006

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[2 Cents Worth](#) | [Letters to the Editor](#) | [How to submit a Letter to the Editor](#) |



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2 Cents Worth:

Do you think we have a dog problem in Seldovia because some dogs are running loose?



“Well, I think it is for some people. It really doesn't bother me. Did you know that one time Blue (Mary's dog that passed away) was at the Harbor Master's House and a visitor asked her where the bar was and Blue took them to the Lindwood...right up the steps. It cracked me up!”

Mary Fitzgerald



“Right, I do. In the evening time it starts. I don't know whose dogs they are. I'm just busy picking up garbage after them. We need stiffer fines.”

Bev Hecks



“I think it is 'Letters to the Editor's Month!' We have a dog issue that comes up about every three to five years.”

Cheryl Reynolds



“That's right we do. It is pooping in our yard every day...even in front of our door! We don't have a dog but we have poop! ”

Tata Wheeler

Letters to the Editor

Dear Seldovians,

Sometimes we need a wakeup call! Sometimes it takes an action to fully realize what is happening. The wakeup call is about a park on Lot 1, Block 13. Lot 1, Block 13 is the lot that is currently a pie shaped lot that is adjacent to Dr. and Mrs. Strannik's red building on Main St. (Fred Elvsaas owned it before the Stranniks). Without a replatting from the Borough to give this lot a little more space, this lot too small to put a good sized building on it and still have enough room for parking. The lot would have to be replatted in order to get a higher dollar value for it. This would mean taking some of the land that is currently platted as a road next to this lot. But more than these technicalities, do you want to convert this land from public land to privately held land?

This is the issue: Currently this lot is zoned "public." This means that this lot is to be used for public purpose. Many of you in town signed a poll stating that you would like to see a park in this location for public use. This was brought before the City Council when the rezoning issue came before it. There were 92 valid signatures were on the poll that said Seldovians wanted a park at this location. The City Council decided revisit the ordinance at a later date. The signatures were significant in that 92 signatures in January is a significant amount of adults who support this park.

Here is the question. Do you want the City Council to change the zoning on this lot and then put the lot up for sale as zoned "commercial marine"? Or, do you want a park at this location for public use. This park can be functional by the end of June and it will have a built gazebo, benches, tables, flowers and be a very great asset to all of us. In addition, the Seldovia Chamber of Commerce voted at the February meeting to support this development and maintenance of this park. This park will not cost the City any money to develop or maintain!

There have been some other sites proposed for a park, but all these sites have problems tied to them. Do we even have one decent park in Seldovia? No. There has been a suggestion for a park between the Harbor Master's House and the "old Buzz." My view of this area is that it would be better served as selling this lot and putting up a business there so that the business district is on this part of Main Street. All the buildings line up and the view of the harbor is blocked in this area. I cannot get excited about a park in this area and I will not put my energy into the development of one at this location.

If we can get Lot 1, Block 13 as a park and all we need to do to get a park here is a majority vote of the City Council. A park in this location will be for the enjoyment of all of us and it will preserve the beauty of our harbor view. It will give people a place to go and enjoy. It is something that is greatly needed for our public enjoyment and development of our city. We have no development problems with this park and no maintenance issues. I am asking every citizen of this community to take a stand and not be complacent about this matter. If you do not and you are apathetic about this issue, we will loose this lot to "development" and we will loose the best spot in town for a beautiful park that everyone could enjoy. It comes down to this question: Do you want a beautiful city park or business in this location?

If anyone would like to talk to me about this matter, please feel free to call me. I urge you to contact every one on the City Council and let them know your feelings about a park on Lot 1, Block 13. If you get a survey in the mail as to what you would like to see happen in Seldovia, and it is your desire for a park in this location, put that on the survey. If you get the opportunity to tell anyone that you support this park, please do so. Let's make this park happen and let's make it happen this spring so that we can enjoy it this summer.

Thanks for listening. Mary Glover

The Seldovia Gazette values freedom of speech. We welcome original, insightful letters from our readers on issues that are of concern to them. However, due to space considerations, please limit letters to 300 words. We also reserve the right to edit all letters for clarity, grammar, and taste. Letters must be signed and submitted by Tuesday at 5 pm in order to be printed in that week's press. We accept letters submitted by one of three ways: by email at tomg@seldovia.com or maryg@seldovia.com, by fax at 907-234-7526, or by mail at Seldovia Gazette, P.O. Box 97, Seldovia, Alaska 99663.

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