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LETTERS TO WATER LIFE Magazine

Mr. Heller,

The one sided tone in your recent article in Water Life Magazine comes as no surprise given your prejudiced approach at the hearing for a 29% reduction in Ramp and Pier hours. First, understand the proposal to reduce the park hours was not mine; it came from Parks & Rec. We do need a plan to restrict overnight activities of non boaters and non fisherman from the park from 9pm-6am. Non boaters and non fisherman are about 85%-90% of the problem. The law currently prohibits those particular people from entering the park but it is virtually unenforceable without a cop there full time. Full time police are too costly as is the cost of 500 police visits to the park annually. Another plan needs to be worked on. I assumed the joint committee meeting would have the interest and broad spectrum thinking to tackle a real problem. Several solutions have been bantered but not one committee member at the hearing would acknowledge the park noise or remotely suggest any remedies. Shameful.

Your publication has failed to do the research on facts about the Beach Complex and the issues at the Park. Look at the following facts.

Virtually every county along both coasts of Florida do not allow unlimited 24 hour ramps or pier activities. Charlotte County is the exception not the rule. There are reasons why parks are closed locally in Naples (Collier), Sarasota and Manatee counties as well as in Punta Gorda. 24/7 clearly draws undesirables. **LOCALLY, THE WYSTERIA RAMP IS CLOSING BECAUSE OF THE NOISE.** By denying there is no late night noise at the Beach Complex does not make it go away. The Wysteria residents were well organized in their opposition and they are to be commended for shouting louder than the mob.

December thru February we had 4 different (homeless) people living in their cars in the park. You did not know because you likely are not there in the middle of the night...

5 other Charlotte county ramps near by in

non-residential areas would still be open to service boaters with virtually no inconvenience to anyone.

Your challenge to me on the fact that over 500 police visits to the park in 12 months shows your journalistic skills have failed. Your inability to make a few calls to get the information is amazing. As a journalist I would look harder, I was directed to the information on the 2nd call. Your challenge to me in public was grand standing and made for good controversy. "Mr. Yancey what address do you live at, what number is it?" You are unacceptably biased for a journalist.

Your claim to my loss of credibility on drunken kayakers is YOUR view. The drunken kayakers happened and what makes it disgusting is of the 4 times, underage children were with them twice. No kayak lights, open alcohol, screaming and yelling. You made light of a serious incident. It is in the police record. Read about it.

There were 6 separate people with me at the hearing. Only 2 of us spoke out (pro proposal) because of the mob mentality in the room. (your article said I was the only one to speak for proposal--you were wrong) The other 4 people were not interested in being subject to the harassment that went on.

Parliamentary procedure was not adhered to in the meeting. I would describe it as an unprofessional "kangaroo" affair.

The spot light you referred to was an after midnight boater who pulled into the ramp with blaring music that woke all the guests in the house and the neighbors. They broke about 20+ beer bottles in succession in a metal barrel. Polite crowd you represent. **YOU DO NOT KNOW THE FACTS.**

We did our research before moving in and were assured by the county the park was closed from 9pm until 6am. Please, no more airport jokes.

Not one question was asked of me from the committees after my presentation other than to ridicule my 1 year residency. No one wanted

the facts about the noise. Actually I have owned property in Florida since the early 80's.

What really was never revealed due to time and mob constraints is that 85% of the problems are the park drive-bys throughout the night. The stereotypes, fights, drinking, peel outs, drug deals, dope smoking and loud trucks. All are clearly illegal but not stoppable under the current rules. A proposal to gate the park and require payment prior to entry would virtually solve the issue. I was not given the courtesy to offer the solution.

Candidate Ray Cowen (his wife) and Bob Norton who live on Colleen and spoke against the proposal both live on the back side of Colleen. Cowen does not live across from me, you reported it incorrectly. Cowen is furthest from the noise and Bob Norton (lives on the back side) a bit closer but he has hearing aids. Ray (lifetime state beauracrat) was pandering the fishing vote by suggesting only fisherman helped him clear his house after the hurricane. Go ask his neighbors who helped him clear his mess.

Your statement alleging lines of boats would spill into the streets if the ramp was not open all night is just wrong. Do your research like a real journalist should. Check the boat ramp at 9pm each night maybe 2 boats and at 11 pm usually 0 boats, and 2 am you find 0 boats, 4am 0 boats etc, **THERE IS VIRTUALLY NOBODY THERE AFTER 9PM,** go check it sometime. After 9pm there are just partiers, drive bys, drinkers and druggies. You should be open minded to help fix the problem that exists, it is all over the county not just this park.

Bill Cameron, Sheriff Candidate was the lone outside rational voice with a potential resolution to the park problems. He suggested closing the fishing pier after 9pm and only allowing vehicles with trailers in the park after 9pm. Interesting that you did not print that in your article. It's about being fair and balanced and this is another example that your article was one sided.

John Yancey, Port Charlotte

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Adam Wilson brought this photo back from the Gulf last month while they were exploring the underside of a weedline for fish

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