

June 10, 2015

To: Commissioners and staff of the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

From: Friends of Northwood Lake

Subject: BCWMC proposed actions impacting Northwood Lake

In meetings at various locations in the past year, the Friends of Northwood lake and neighbors in the area of the lake have consistently supported Options A and C, and opposed any plan that would place a retention pond in Northwood Park. We ask you to consider the following:

1. The benefits to water quality for Northwood Lake provided by Option A are not identical with those provided by Option B. The water reuse portion of Option A will significantly reduce the amount of soluble phosphorus going into the Lake. We believe City Engineer Long can point to the specific figures in the November report.
2. We also respectfully point out that the New Hope City Council is strongly supportive of Option A and has committed \$205,000 to the project. It should also be noted that prior to this proposed project, the City Council in the 1960s and 1970s supported the dredging of Northwood Lake as well as the purchase of the wetlands west of Winnetka Avenue as part of the Northwood Park acquisition. Finally, as you know, the Commission applied for and received a \$300,000 grant conditioned on Option A going forward.
3. We believe the mission and obligation of the BCWMC should not be focused narrowly on water quality and quantity, but should at least extend to trying “to do no harm” in implementing its projects. Two items in your own management plan stood out to us. One of the goals is to “Manage the water resources of the watershed, with input from the public, so that the beneficial uses of wetlands, lakes, and streams remain available to the community.” Two, a stated purpose of the Commission is “to consider aesthetics and recreational opportunities within the watershed when completing BCWMC projects.” Taking a significant portion of the recreation area of the crown jewel of the park system for a holding pond, we believe, would certainly be causing unnecessary harm. Northwood Park is, after all, our largest park and where we hold our largest community special events.

Our lake association appreciates the time and effort the Commission has spent in preserving and improving waters and lands throughout the watershed. Thank you for considering our thoughts.

Jere Gwin-Lenth and Harvey Feldman  
Co-presidents, Friends of Northwood Lake