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May 13, 2021

Kent Robinson
Acting CAO
Rocky View County

Via E Mail

Dear Mr. Robinson,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Glenbow Ranch Park Foundation ("GRPF"). As you may be aware, GRPF in partnership with Alberta Parks and Environment operates Glenbow Ranch Provincial Park.

We are seeking the County's assistance for relief from a significant problem for the Park that has been created by the total ban of parking along Glenbow Road leading to the entrance.

To provide some context, due to general restrictions on outdoor activities for Albertans as well as the closure of Big Hill Springs Park, visitor counts to GRPP have reached levels at 120% over the previous year. The result was that the limited amount of parking inside GRPP boundaries was overwhelmed and vehicles were parking on both sides of Glenbow Road leading back to the Highway.

This congestion did create safety concerns which our Foundation initially brought to the County and was supportive of a neighboring landowner in his petition. However, it was always the Foundation's belief that parking would only be disallowed on the west side of the road adjacent to the owner's property. This would facilitate emergency vehicle access while still enhancing capacity. The current situation has created a deluge of complaints to the County, Parks, and the Foundation. The volume of said complaints will only increase in coming weeks as the weather turns and schools close. By way of example, I was personally at the Park on Wednesday May 12th. When I left at 1145am, there was not a parking spot available, and this is mid-week!

The Foundation, working with Parks and area landowners are exploring options to add an additional paved lot. Unfortunately, there is no option that provides us with relief in 2021. We are thereby requesting the County allow vehicle parking on the east side of Glenbow Road until a better solution can become a reality, hopefully by spring 2022.

We know all stakeholders involved realize how fortunate we are having this grassland jewel in our proverbial backyards. More than ever, it is playing a significant role for the physical well being and mental health of its many patrons.

We appreciate your prompt consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Olson".

Mark Olson
Board Chair
Glenbow Ranch Park Foundation

c.c. Sarah Parker- GRPF Executive Director, Andrew Schoepf-Kananaskis East Area Manager