

THE TRUTH-

Mayor Gahan made the following statements in a letter to members of the City Council dated October 17th informing them that providing a dollar amount of how much has been spent might cause issues with legal proceedings.

- 1) *In the first paragraph the mayor claims to be “upholding its responsibilities and defend the interest of its citizens.”*

Question: Defending who from what exactly?

TRUTH- Had he, and the council, truly wanted to defend the citizens, he could have done so by allowing the dam to be removed. Saving over three years using taxpayers money on attorney fees in appeal after appeal.

- 2) *In the fifth paragraph- the mayor states he has concerns “related to ceding public lands and infrastructure to an “out-of-county” private corporation.”*

TRUTH- RHC is a 501 c3 whose board is made up of Floyd and Clark County residents including a former State Representative and a former Indiana Attorney General (also a native of New Albany).

- 3) *Also, in the same paragraph- the mayor makes a statement that “no one should be charged a fee for accessing public lands.”*

Question: Where does this come from?

TRUTH- Origin Park is a 430-acre park made up of land that RHC has purchased or have entered into MOU's (Memorandum of Understanding) to manage and sustain the land with **no Fees to enter the park. Also, not public land.**

- 4) *In the sixth paragraph the mayor states that “There are also numerous questions surrounding Origin Park plans for Silver Creek.”*

TRUTH- First of all, RHC has stated, very clearly, in the media, that the issue with removing the Dam has **NOTHING** to do with building Origin Park.

The dam on Silver Creek was something that RHC could do to allow citizens better and safer access to fish, canoe and kayak by removing what has been proven to be a dangerous dam and improve and restore the creek to its original and natural element.

- 5) *In the seventh paragraph- the mayor also states that he has had to “piece together” information on Origin Park.*

TRUTH- RHC has been very transparent about the park, its purpose of removing junkyards and landfills and restoring them for public use.

- 6) Also, in the seventh and eighth paragraph, *the mayor provides weblinks to projects he IMPLIES to align with the RHC Wildwater Adventure- apparently in an effort to tie a nearby creek to further bring concerns to local citizens.*

TRUTH- The Origin Park website- open to anyone that TRULY wants information on Origin Park and its plans, clearly state-that the Wildwater Adventure Center is patterned after similar successful parks of this scale and size and are located in suburbs particularly the one in Charlotte, North Carolina.

TRUTH # 2- The fact that the mayor even used the language from the Origin Park website, in his letter, also proves that he, or someone helping him, has been to the website but failed to attribute and use the context and leaving that information out.

Here is the correct link: <https://www.charlottesgotalot.com/things-to-do/outdoors-adventure/us-national-whitewater-center>

- 7) Finally, in the eight paragraph the mayor uses the Council Resolution *that “asks for “the preservation of and/or modification to improve the safety of the historic dam.”*

TRUTH- Note that the mayor refuses to consider or discuss the only way to “improve the safety” and “eliminate the dangerous hydraulic roller effect,” was is to remove it. In fact, had he allowed the dam to be removed a young teenager would not have died.

TRUTH#2- There is NOTHING historic about the dam. The mayor knows this because he received a letter from the Indiana Land Trust of that fact.

FACTS

- 1) The difference and long term advantage in a conservancy building a park is that the conservancy is responsible for sustaining the park. If a municipality, like New Albany, the taxpayers will continue to pay the price for the upkeep and sustainability long after the mayor is out of office.
 - a. This is what happened the Glenwood Park-look up the historic records.
- 2) Over three years fighting the removal of a dangerous dam at no cost to taxpayers. Over three years of attorney fees and the mayor refuses to provide those who elected him what the price tag is.

3) Takes “illegal” action to “fix” what could have been fixed over three years ago.

WHY?