

Robert Brakenridge Lyons, Colorado - Open Discussion

August 1 at 6:51 AM ·

According to the packet for Monday's Board of Trustees meeting (link provided below), the Town is considering using some park land (Bohn Park, or the Dog Park, or the conservation covenant-protected parcel to the south) for a solar farm. This would have to be put up to a town vote in November.

So, in back-to-back meetings; the BoT will have:

1) Instituted electric utility billing changes that largely remove the savings to customers of "net metering". The changes will discourage homeowners and businesses from installing solar panels, which save them money, feed into our local grid, and reduce our dependence on coal-fired generating plants.

2) But the lucky residents who have already installed solar will be "grandfathered" over decades, and continue to save most or all of their normal utility usage bills. I think (not positive) that this savings goes with the property if it is sold. Some of the folks who already have solar have been proponents of this change. They alone will retain the benefits of the one-to-one net metering policy that the change does away with.

3) And the Town will now consider how to take park land (and build road access) in order to operate its own solar facility, using public money to do so. With no plan to reduce consumer costs.

Why should anyone vote to approve taking a piece of Bohn Park, or the dog park, or the parcel to the south, for a town-operated solar farm? When the town utility is now acting to strongly discourage new home- and business-based solar?

Why solar panels in our parks behind fencing, rather than on our homes and businesses and not having to be maintained at public expense?

All three of these park properties are used by us, every day of the week, all year long. They are being heavily used as they are. What is the value of that usage?

Solar farms can be built on floodplains. Are there no Lyons or Boulder County buyout properties that could host one? The county parcels are available to the Town without any cost. So far, Town has seen no reason to accept them. Here is one good reason. Leave the parks alone, and put the panels on land that is already off-limits to the public.

Let our board members and mayor know if you disagree with these plans. Let the UEB members know too: they are supposed to independently evaluate such plans, and need to hear not only from utility representatives, but from the public they volunteered to serve.

Mark Browning

I no longer engage in "debates" in Lyons OD. And I won't debate the above post. All I will say is that it is full of falsehoods, distortions and disinformation. Don't believe what was posted. Anyone with a serious interest in this topic is welcome to email me at MBrowning@townoflyons.com and I will be glad to reply. (The postings on this site are my own and do not necessarily represent the Town of Lyons's positions or opinions.)