

## Young people want parks, not parking lots

Last week Mayor Ridenour wrote a letter to the editor explaining that the public is not giving the new YMCA plans a chance. The plans would take Tuhey Park away from public hands and place it in control of the YMCA, and essentially destroy it.

Mr. Mayor, your letter was embarrassing.

Instead of explaining the potential benefits of the project, the mayor chose to attack neighborhood associations, the core of our community. Neighborhood associations are the most basic, and arguably important, form of civic engagement and for the mayor to try and score cheap political points by going after them is embarrassing.

Mr. Mayor, you should have planned this rollout better.

Learning about this project through social media, rather than from the city, was embarrassing as well. There could have been a press conference or forum where the mayor and other officials could have explained the project, but that is not what happened. The mayor's office should be the first source of this kind of information, not Facebook.

Mr. Mayor, young people want parks, not parking lots.

I am 22 years old, from Evansville, and have chosen to make Muncie my home, at least for now. If Muncie wants to attract more young people, and get us to stay, the city must invest in parks, not demolish them. This plan, and any plan, is a disaster simply because it will destroy much-loved (and needed) greenspace that is central to a thriving community. We should be investing and expanding in our parks, especially in Tuhey which has so much potential to be an even better community space that attracts people from all over the community, including us young folks.

Mr. Mayor, I urge you to scrap this plan and support our parks.

*Dominic Bordenaro*

*Muncie*