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Shellie Buckle (MSC), Jo Martin (KRPBG)

Greetings, etc

S: You have reached out to Chris Lea here at council this morning about Anzac Park. He's got a lot on at the moment so he's asked me to give you a call. To confirm about the large rocks.

J: Yes.

S: So the fountain will be removed and the large rocks there they will be laid down. So they won't remain standing up as they are. The opportunity to plant them out will still be there.

J: Well not really because they will get climbed on.

S: Yes, but one of the foundation goals, that all this work at Anzac Park was to achieve was to create a safer park. That is the main reason why those rocks will be laid flat.

J: The reason I got in touch with Christopher is I wanted to discuss with him if there was an option to plant out behind the vertical wall so that Aboriginal people won't gather there. Is that what we're talking about, in code, when we're talking about a safer park?

S: Yes, thank you for that honesty.

J: To avoid losing part of our heritage, and what we can do to solve the problem, which I proposed a solution to Christopher was why can't we just plant it out with vegetation behind there – 80cm high off the ground – ferns, etc, natives they grow really well here – and once they're established people won't go behind there. Nobody is going to pull the ferns out to sit there.

S: One of the other goals was to reduce the maintenance in the park. Building extra garden beds does not meet that goal.

J: It's not extra garden beds, it's just planting ferns in the ground which is fine, our community groups can do that.

This is why I'm getting in touch – because the council have their own mercenary plans to make everything super-easy, super-safe and super-this and that but really part of Kuranda's, you know the tourist thing [charm] that people come here for, is that it is a bit quirky and it is a bit different and there is a few bits and pieces that are of interest, which is what that vertical rock wall could be when we plant it out.

Our community groups want to plant it out with ferns, [etc] but if we lay the rocks down people will climb on them – that's not safe. What about the slippery rocks? And kids climbing on them? Nobody is climbing on the vertical wall. I think that is a really big issue.

S: Can I please just reassure you that Chris and Jackie have done a lot of work in achieving what council needs to achieve and the maintenance and the safety will also achieve in what we have heard loud and clear from yourself and other people at this community engagement. So please

can I just ask that you – I know Chris is looking to engage contractors in the coming weeks can we just wait and see and I believe that all of that is going to be met.

J: No, the rock wall is going to be dismantled.

S: Yes and the councillors have made that... Jo...

J: No, I got the email back from Angela yesterday and I'm just trying to figure out what to do. I didn't even know what this "rearranged" thing was in code – for why is that – which you answered [earlier]. It's not going to be a problem. I think more of the problem is going to be the safety of flat lying rocks that people will climb on.

I will be emailing the council back, the councillors, because I just wanted to check with Christopher if I was right in the code for why the rock wall has to be dismantled – which was to stop Aboriginal people gathering behind it.

S: Yes. You can do what you would like Jo, and you're always welcome to email the councillors, so please do that. But I'm, I will be honest with you, the plans have been confirmed and we're proceeding with those plans. I suppose I just want you to temper your expectations that there will be further changes made because I really don't think that there will be.

J: The whole thing about safety – and if a kid falls over on slimy rocks and cracks their head open – it's on council. That's what I will be putting in writing. And that's why I will be saying we don't have to be mercenary about this – we can solve the problem and the community groups can help. And council – you know [Shellie] it's all about – I'm hearing you saying 'No nothing can be changed I'm sorry Jo'. Well if we're still weeks and days away we can always change.

S: Not once we start engaging with contractors because they provide quotes on the scope of works.

J: Yes, but leaving the wall there is not going to change by putting more on the budget – it's going to make it less.

Ok, thank you for your call. I was just trying to get the heads up on what that meant - for the code – for why the rock wall needs to come down. So yes, thank you for the clarification on that.

Thank yous and good byes.