

March 24, 1967

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Bradburn
1009 St. Joseph Drive
St. Joseph, Michigan

Dear Brad & Helen,

Sorry, Brad, you felt you had to resign from the GMA Board, but with the size of the construction project you are undertaking, I can certainly understand your lack of time.

When we first started this effort, Helen made the statement, "It would be a long fight". How right she was! I think Helen is mainly responsible for the substantial scientific basis that was essential to get the effort off the ground.

Even if the effort were to fall through right now, I think a lot more people are aware of some of the values we have sought to promote, and they are concerned.

Because we have all put in so much more time than a volunteer group expects to do, and because most of us are rather determined individuals, it was natural there be some clashes of individual wills-- we had them when each of you were on the Board, and we still have them.

I was against the referendum at first, because as Julian pointed out, if you win, what do you win? I changed my mind when I got to thinking about the effect on the township officials if we can win. I would expect them to be very hesitant about issuing a sand mining permit; further, if the voters in Lincoln township will recognize esthetic values as opposed to commercialization, maybe Zollar will change his views.

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Another possible hope is to pursue the track we were on when Floyd entered the picture--the possibility of a county park.

The state is certainly better qualified to develop and manage the area, but without interest from Zollar, a county park must be considered.

To this end, I hope we can win the referendum, then approach some of the foundations in the county for support and work toward a county millage vote.

In any event, the immediate effort is pretty much a township problem. A surprising number of people have come forth from the residents of the township to offer help. We stand a fair chance if the vote is before the owners come in with a big promotional bit.

If the referendum is successful, I hope you both will continue to support public acquisition of the area--privately as through the various organizations you belong to.

Sincerely,

Frank Lahr

FL/tw