

GP58

Karen Hagerty, Manager
Muslim Youth Corps Project
Clock Tower Building
P.O. Box 2004
Rock Island, IL 61204-2004

Dear Manager Hagerty:

I am concerned that the Corps may be on the verge of making a grave mistake by approving the Muslim Youth Camp at Coralville Lake. This strikes me **as** another potential failure to connect all of the dots.

2 - [Many years ago, shortly after completion of the Coralville Camp I served on the committee that made the Lake McBride Field Campus application. At that time, a major principle governing all applications was that any approved usage must be open to the general public. I thought then and I think now that was and is an appropriate requirement. This is public land! I questioned the prior approval of the area in question as a girl scout camp since that activity was not a general public activity. Even when no scouts were present one was left with the feeling of being a trespasser since no effort was made to encourage or o.k. general public usage.

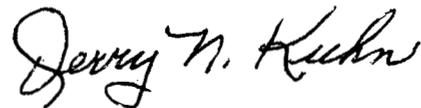
The situation with the current Muslim proposal is far worse. This is intended as exclusive yearlong usage together with permanent buildings. No non-Muslim or Muslim would continue to view the area as public land if this proposal is finalized. Approval would represent a giveaway of public property pure and simple! I do not believe the Corps is empowered to do that.)

5-8 [Of even greater consequence is the fact that at a time when the U.S. is under attack by terrorists many of whom have ethnic characteristics similar to this application group the Corps would be providing a potential camouflage site that could be used as an attack base. This is in no way to suggest that the application group is connected with terrorists. Rather, they could easily, unwillingly and unknowingly provide cover in an area where law enforcement is already inadequate.

This is a critical area for this part of the midwest. Two major dams are nearby. The Palo nuclear plant is only a few miles further. I do not know what research activities are now underway at the University of Iowa, but would venture that there are several with military and/or defense related implications. Then, too, there are the large crowds at football and basketball games that represent attractive terrorists targets.

All in all, I urge the Corps to rethink this matter. At the very least they should make sure the new Department of Homeland Security is given an opportunity to review the application before a decision is made to give final approval.

Sincerely,



Jerry N. Kuhn
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cc. Representative Jim Leach
Senator Charles Grassley
Senator Tom Harkin