

04-16-2024

**City Council Regular
Meeting**

Supplemental Packet

April 10, 2024

City of Afton

Attn: City Council Members/meeting on 4/16/24

P.O. Box 219

Afton, MN 55001

Dear Esteemed Council Members,

I write to you today in support of Rusty Bucket Acres Farm (RBA), a 501C-3 organization, within the city limits of Afton, Minnesota. I have known Shelly Daniel and Lorna Glassman for years and have visited the farm many times. I have also been a caregiver for the animals when they were out of town on occasion. I am in full support of them remaining an operating farm for many reasons.

First of all, Shelly and Lorna love the animals they care for. They have named them all and know them by sight. Not only that, Shelly and Lorna rescue farm animals that previous owners can no longer take care of and then provide those animals with love and affection, whether the animal is young or old. The animals are pretty tame and are part of Shelly and Lorna's family. You will not find two people more dedicated to their farm than Shelly and Lorna.

Second, Shelly and Lorna don't charge people to come visit the farm. It is a contribution-based visit and that is one of the main ways they keep the farm operating. Shelly and Lorna are not "out to make a buck" with their operation....they do this because they love animals and in turn, want to offer people who visit a chance to find serenity, peace and the love the animals provide.

Third, and probably most importantly, is what Rusty Bucket Acres provides those who visit. I have witnessed children who are on the spectrum, open their hearts to the animals without fear. Others, who struggle with anxiety or depression and who spend time at the farm, leave there with a renewed sense of calm. RBA offers an interactive experience with the animals that visitors find therapeutic and in both of these scenarios, the animals are the true heroes. They don't differentiate between a child on the spectrum and one who is not. They love everyone who walks through the pasture gates – regardless of any disabilities or challenges that person is struggling with. This farm has become a haven to visitors from around

the area because of the animals and the animals are so special because of how Shelly and Lorna treat them.

Finally, if you haven't been to the farm to see it, you really must go. Shelly and Lorna use food waste from places like Kowalskis and the North St. Paul Food Shelf - produce and expiring breads that would otherwise be thrown into the trash are now being consumed by the animals at their farm. They have a maintenance plan that uses recycled materials for repairs around the pasture and the fence is made up of old, recycled pallets. Besides every other reason listed above, Shelly and Lorna are stewards of the land and should be allowed to continue operating Rusty Bucket Acres Farm now and into the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dolly Parker". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Dolly Parker