

Had this bill been in effect it is possible the residents of Lakewood Park in Eugene would have been able to purchase the park and turn it into a resident owned community.

A committee was rapidly formed and contact was made with CASA who helped to facilitate an offer which was quickly rejected. A second offer was made, but that offer was also rejected. Had the park owner accepted the offer he would have received more dollars than the corporate offer he accepted. The Park committee were never allowed to see the financials. The information we have is that the owners son discouraged him from selling to the residents because he wanted a quick cash deal. As it turned out the actual deal took several months.

The new corporate owners immediately raised the rent by 50% for any new residents who purchased an existing home. Recently they installed individual water meters in each home and will begin billing for water in September. The plumbers who installed the meters did a terrible job resulting in damage to many homes.

Bottom line is the park is now sadly owned by a corporation whose possible only interest is in maximizing their profits at the expense of the existing and future residents. By drastically raising the property rent they have eliminated the possibility of anyone living on Social Security from ever qualifying to be able to move to this park. Lakewood is now the most expensive park in Eugene.

I urge the Committee to pass HB 2364 and send it to the governor for signature.