



To inspire and empower the next generations for a greater community.

February 10, 2023

Dear Parks and Recreation Board Members,

I'd like to sincerely thank you all for your support of the skatepark project over the years and all that the City has done to get us to this point.

In January 2015, I wrote a series of blog posts called "Forgotten Youth" that outlined the need for a public skatepark in our City and some of the problems that a skatepark would help to solve. The support and encouragement for the idea was overwhelming but I wasn't sure what to make of it.

When Blake Doyle passed tragically in 2015 there was so much hurt and devastation among my peer group and in the skate community. Bart Doyle (Blake's twin brother) and I talked about doing something to honor Blake. We decided that a skatepark might be a way to accomplish this.

I was so naive about what the process would entail or how long it would take. In hindsight, this may have been a good thing. The fact that we wanted to do this to honor Blake played a big part in deciding to commit 100% to see this project come to fruition and beginning to advocate and help raise funds for the park. I didn't even know that we would need a 501(c)(3) to legally accept donations. This is how Upward Intuition originally came to be. Lots of people were eager to volunteer their time and resources and many of them were kids. The initial core group of kid advocates are no longer kids. Many of them have spent more than half of their life helping to push this project forward. It's hard to explain how excited I am to finally get to enjoy the skatepark with everyone that has put so much time and energy into making it happen.

I could not be happier with the design and build of the park. The skatepark we will have here in a few months really is incredible. I hope that we can continue working together to keep the park programmed with clinics, contests, events, and live music. I believe we have a unique opportunity to be able to host professional contests that would bring people from all over to Pensacola.

It feels like the end of an era but the beginning of a new and exciting chapter. I am so excited about the plans for the rest of the HTW park and I will continue to advocate and help in any way possible to push this next phase forward.

If any of you have ideas relating to the skatepark, questions, or concerns, please reach out to me anytime. Hope to see you all at the ribbon cutting!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jon Shell".

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