

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, August 17, 2024 6:51 PM
To: Web Master; County Board Public Comment
Subject: PublicComment

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[REDACTED] **PublicComment**
Submitted at 08/17/24 6:51 PM

Meeting Date: 08/20/24

Meeting: Joint Special Meeting of the Development and Environmental Committees

Name: Marilyn Schweitzer

Organization:

Address: [REDACTED]
Naperville, IL 60540

Daytime Phone:

Subject: Proposed Text Amendments to the DuPage County Zoning Ordinance relative to Beekeeping

Comment: I support the amendment. My rationale is:
1) The biggest risk on native bees is other human controlled activities such as pesticides, habitat loss, food source loss, and climate change.
2) Those human activities are severely impacting insect populations in general, not just native bees.
3) Honeybees are some of the very few domesticated insects. They act as

emissaries between humans and their insect brethren. Were it not for that relationship and their use in commercial pollination, I suspect people would care not so much about dramatic declines in insect populations. (Monarchs butterflies are similar non-domesticated emissaries.)

4) The Morton Arboretum, Forest Preserves of DuPage County, and other local forest preserves keep honeybee hives and offer classes.

5) While the National Wildlife Society recognizes the potential impact of honeybees on native bees, they also conclude raising them as a hobby or teaching/learning experience is okay. See

<https://www.nwf.org/Home/Magazines/National-Wildlife/2021/June-July/Gardening/Honey-Bees>

6) The proposed amendment is limited to 4-H projects, not general hobbyists or commercial enterprises. This to me is a good example of a teaching/learning experience. The hives must be maintained by a resident of the permitted property. Based on the comments by staff in the Development Committee meeting, it seems the number of potential applicants will be small.

7) The proposed amendment adds better controls on beekeeping for 4-H projects in general. For example, by requiring State of Illinois Department registration, 4-H projects can now be fined for violations such as abandoning hives, illegally transporting bees, or properly maintaining them.

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