

Herbaugh, Melinda

From: Brent Morrison <skagitrecording@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 11:54 PM
To: PRC
Subject: Attn: Chris Davidson: Public Comment on Project 3020338 (City People's Garden Store)

Dear Chris:

I have watched this city change a great deal over my lifetime, as have my ancestors. Though I am mostly inured to it by now, the one change that burdens my heart and head unlike any other is the proposed redevelopment of the City People's site (project no. 3020338).

My heart recoils at the prospect of erecting an unprecedented monolith in the quiet hamlet of Madison Valley. On the Madison side of the City People's site is a small and eclectic business district that respects the scale of humans and pedestrians, as one might find in a small European village. On the Dewey side of the site is a sylvan residential neighborhood with narrow, careworn streets. The last time I walked along Dewey behind City People's, a hummingbird fearlessly alighted on a branch directly overhead and serenaded me for several minutes.

As an engineer and a pragmatist, I understand the folly of disputing the zoning laws that are in place today and could not be changed without due process. The developer's exploitative proposal is a rational attempt to maximize economic return within the limit of the law. The regrettable incongruity between this project and its site is ultimately our burden to bear. Therefore I implore you: please make no special concessions to this developer—not one iota beyond the defensible letter of the law. Please hold this developer accountable for all impacts discovered over the course of your review.

In another year's time, there will be no more hummingbird concerti on Dewey Place. We call it progress because we wisely choose to frame an inevitable change in terms of its benefits. That brave bird's melody will forever remind me of the intersection between legality and morality in property development, and of the importance of singing out when our hearts tell us that we must.

Most sincerely,
Brent J. Morrison, P.E.
Downtown Seattle