

Seattle, the Emerald City

Who's in charge of what is going on in this city??

Who is driving this bus?????

Is it really just money and power? *that has a voice?*

Have we finally lost all sight of what makes the city of Seattle so desirable. And special.

There was an editorial this past Saturday in the Seattle Times asking the same question: who is in charge as we watch, and I quote, "the greenery, the open space and the grace" disappear from our neighborhoods. As we watch our major streets "turn into walls of buildings". "I long to hear someone speak of a vision for Seattle's future that imagines the city as a place that preserves access to its outside beauty", *and maintain or adds to what little remains."*

Who is responsible if Project #30203398 is green lighted?

Is it the City, Magda?

I'm not just talking about who has the *power* to green light it.

I'm asking who is finally *responsible* for it? ..

Who will take *ownership* for the consequences, the fallout, the impact, the ramifications.

I don't think its the Velmeir Corp, or PCC Natural Markets, or even the architect.

We have appealed for over a year to their sense of proportion, to their sense of decency, to their sense of right and wrong, and to their aesthetic sensibilities. They have responded to our appeals by in fact increasing the size of the overall footprint, and, in spite of our have continued concerns and protestations, they have continued to characterize the impact of the project on the neighborhood as an '*enhancement*'.

This is not a project designed to '*enhance*' the Dewey Place neighborhood, the Madison Valley corridor, or city of Seattle. This is a project designed for profit .. profit for the Velmeir Corporation and for the PCC Natural Markets at the expense of the citizens of this city, and in particular of Madison Valley.

This is a harsh inditement.

What's happening to our neighborhoods, to the city of Seattle, is harsh as well.

And pitiful.

Who is responsible?

As citizens, all over the city, we are doing every thing we can to stop the train.

We clearly have very little power.

I'm not saying that Velmeir or PCC set out to deliberately ruin a neighborhood or a city. But the fallout from their short-sighted self-interest will have that effect. I am also not opposed to development per se. I appreciate thoughtful, prudent, inspired design. I think man-made environments can have the same capacity as the natural environment to enhance, even elevate one's quality of life.

This project is **NOT** such a project.

It is too big, it is out of scale and proportion to its immediate surroundings, and its impact will be to destroy the existing quality of life in the Dewey Place neighborhood. It would be a crime against humanity if this project, in its current form, goes forward. I would like to make a proposal.

The people of Madison Valley believe Project #30203398 will *ruin* their quality of life. Velmeir Assoc, its architect, and PCC Natural Markets, the largest consumer-owned food cooperative in the USA, believe Project #30203398 will *enhance* it.

What if a legal contract were drawn up? signed by both parties and agreeing to what those *terms of Enhancement* are, and agreeing to methods for measuring those terms.

Both parties would agree that the *enhancements* proposed by the developer are satisfactory compensation for the loss of sun, trees, birds, open space, privacy, whatever already-existing amenities the development would be altering. Once these compensations were agreed upon, as well as a time frame for measuring the degree of their enhancement, the contract would be drawn up, holding either the City or the developer, *not* an LLC, accountable. Responsible. Who take ownership for the fallout.

If the enhancements, within the agreed upon time frame, do *not* meet the agreed upon measures, the City and/or the Developer agrees to relocate all aggrieved parties to a neighborhood of proportionate beauty, privacy, livability and proximity to work, *or* to compensate them financially for the value of such re-location.

If the enhancements are met, everyone is satisfied.
And the qualities of Seattle which make it special are preserved.

Jane Nichols
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