

Dela Cruz, Jeff

From: Mark Kot <mark_kot@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2017 11:34 AM
To: PRC
Cc: Hogness, Magda
Subject: Project #3020338

Magda Hogness, SDCI Land Use Planner
Seattle Department of Construction & Inspections
700 5th Ave., Suite 2000
P.O. Box 34019
Seattle, WA 98124-4019

Dear Ms. Hogness:

I am writing to express my continued concern about the possible effects of Project #3020338 (2939 E. Madison St., Seattle WA 98112) on local and migratory birds.

I am writing in part because, on May 5th of this year, Seattle became an Urban Bird Treaty City. The goals of the treaty include protecting urban habitats and reducing urban hazards for birds.

Project #3020338, as currently designed, has a good chance, because of its location (close to the Arboretum), size, and design (lots of glass and lighting) to become a major hazard for migrating birds. This is especially true for nocturnally migrating birds, which are especially prone to collisions.

Many cities are beginning to recognize the importance of building design and management in mitigating bird strikes. I recently visited the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, in Chicago, which experiences 40-50 bird strikes per year. There, I found out that that Chicago has started a "Lights Out" program in the Loop (downtown) to help reduce collisions. Please see

<https://www.bomachicago.org/news/lights-out-chicago-migratory-birds>
<https://www.terrain.org/articles/15/kousky.htm>
<http://www.birdmonitors.net/LightsOut.php>

for more details. Toronto, New York, Boston, San Francisco, and Indianapolis have similar programs. See

<http://www.audubon.org/news/lights-out-turn-birds>

for further details.

The Audubon Society of Portland, Oregon has, in turn, produced a 66-page "Resource Guide for Bird-friendly Building Design" that provides detailed recommendations (regarding size, siting, glass, lighting, vegetation, etc.) for mitigating bird kills. This guide is available at the Audubon society site

<http://audubonportland.org/files/hazards/bfbdd>

and at the City of Portland site

<https://www.portlandoregon.gov/bds/article/408796>

and should be required reading for the designers of this building.

Many residents of Seattle enjoy the bird life of the Arboretum and adjacent areas. I encourage the Design Board and City of Seattle to take actions and to make recommendations that will prevent Project #3020338 from becoming a major source of bird mortality in the city of Seattle.

Respectfully yours,

Mark Kot
506 30th Avenue East
Seattle, WA 98112-4205