



Washington Ethical Society

Seeking the best in others, we find the best in ourselves.

7750 Sixteenth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20012
202-882-6650 FAX 202-829-1354
WES@ETHICALSOCIETY.ORG
WWW.ETHICALSOCIETY.ORG

February 16, 2012

Ms. Meridith Moldenhauer, Chair
Board of Zoning Adjustment
Office of Zoning
Government of the District of Columbia
One Judiciary Square
441 4th Street NW
Suite 210S
Washington, DC 20001

RECEIVED
D.C. OFFICE OF ZONING
2012 FEB 21 PM 3:59

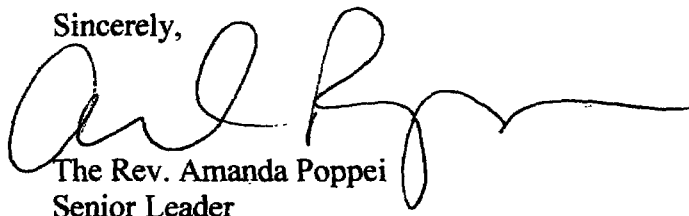
Dear Ms. Moldenhauer,

Enclosed please find 20 copies of a set of letters and signatures of support for the Washington Ethical Society's application for a special exception, BZA Application No. 18335. Our hearing date is April 17, and I'm sure we'll have more letters of support to send before then, but I wanted you to have these for the file now.

You will see that many of the letters are in reference to the current application, while the signatures are in general in reference to our last application for a special exception, which was granted and which runs out on May 17, 2012. Since that application was within the last three years, I thought the signatures of support were still relevant and wanted to include them for you and the entire BZA.

Thank you for your time and service to the District of Columbia.

Sincerely,



The Rev. Amanda Poppei
Senior Leader

BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT
District of Columbia

CASE NO. 18335

EXHIBIT NO. 31

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 18335
EXHIBIT NO. 31



RECEIVED
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2012 FEB 21 PM 4:01

January 10, 2012

Chairman and Members
DC Board of Zoning Adjustment
Office of Zoning
One Judiciary Square
441 4th Street NW, Suite 210S
Washington, DC 20001

Attn: Mr. Clifford Moy, Secretary, BZA
Re: Case # 18335, Washington Ethical Society

Dear Madam Chairman and Members:

I am writing in support of the Washington Ethical Society's renewal application. Wonders Child Care worked closely with WES in 2008 to obtain a BZA adjustment for our leased classroom space. I found the entire staff at WES to be competent, fair-minded and responsible partners.

It was WES' commitment to be a respectful and responsible community partner that helped change the neighborhood's resistance to our child care program operating at that site. WES and Wonders worked with a neighborhood committee to develop a set of guidelines that we all agreed would mitigate the potential traffic impact on the community and ensure the safety of pedestrians. This successful collaboration developed into an ongoing effective relationship that ensured that all parties worked cooperatively and quickly addressed any concerns.

Wonders decided in 2010 that our length of operation at WES would be only for two years. Although we are not the child care provider renewing the application with WES, we completely support the renewal application with the new child care provider. WES has demonstrated its ability to be an effective and responsible neighbor to the community.

Please contact me if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,

Joanne Hurt
Executive Director

JAN 13 REC'D

NON-PROFIT SINCE 1976

main office

4607 willard avenue, chevy chase, maryland 20815 • (301) 654-5339 • Fax (301) 652-9533 • wonderschildcare.org

bethesda extended day • chevy chase extended day • edgemoor children's center • horace mann extended day • jas extended day
leland children's center • north chevy chase extended day • rosemary hills extended day • somerset extended day

DEC 01 REC'D

November 2011

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NOV 10 2011
10:42 AM

Board of Zoning Adjustment
Office of Zoning
District of Columbia
Attn: Mr. Clifford Moy, Secretary, BZA

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to offer my support for the application of the Washington Ethical Society for a special exception to allow them to continue to house a daycare in their building.

Sincerely,

Virginia M. Fay + Kenneth S. Rona
1209 Floral St. NW
Washington, DC 20012
(please print name and address below in addition to signing above)

November 2011

NOV 28 REC'D

Board of Zoning Adjustment
Office of Zoning
District of Columbia
Attn: Mr. Clifford Moy, Secretary, BZA

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to offer my support for the application of the Washington Ethical Society for a special exception to allow them to continue to house a daycare in their building.

Sincerely, *Wilhelm C. Carter*

(please print name and address below in addition to signing above)

*WILHELM C. CARTER
1409 LEEGATE RD. N.W.
WASHINGTON, DC 20012*

NOV 28 REC'D

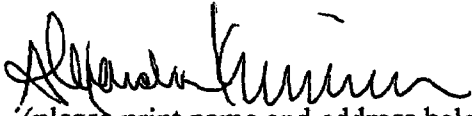
November 2011

Board of Zoning Adjustment
Office of Zoning
District of Columbia
Attn: Mr. Clifford Moy, Secretary, BZA

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to offer my support for the application of the Washington Ethical Society for a special exception to allow them to continue to house a daycare in their building.

Sincerely,



(please print name and address below in addition to signing above)

Alexandra Kincannon
7700 MORNINGSIDE DR NW
WDC 20012

November 2011

NOV 28 RESO

Board of Zoning Adjustment
Office of Zoning
District of Columbia
Attn: Mr. Clifford Moy, Secretary, BZA

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to offer my support for the application of the Washington Ethical Society for a special exception to allow them to continue to house a daycare in their building.

Sincerely,



(please print name and address below in addition to signing above)

ANN CATALDO
8024 EASTERN AVE NW
WASHINGTON DC 20012

NOV 22 REC'D

November 2011

Board of Zoning Adjustment
Office of Zoning
District of Columbia
Attn: Mr. Clifford Moy, Secretary, BZA

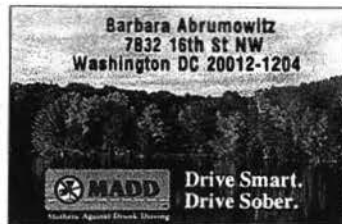
To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to offer my support for the application of the Washington Ethical Society for a special exception to allow them to continue to house a daycare in their building.

Sincerely,



(please print name and address below in addition to signing above)



NOV 14 REC'D

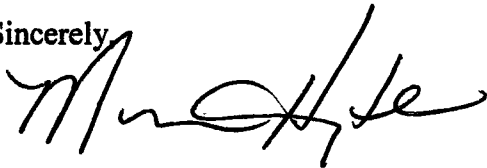
November 2011

Board of Zoning Adjustment
Office of Zoning
District of Columbia
Attn: Mr. Clifford Moy, Secretary, BZA

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to offer my support for the application of the Washington Ethical Society for a special exception to allow them to continue to house a daycare in their building.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michelle Hoyte". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and a long, sweeping underline.

(please print name and address below in addition to signing above)

Michelle Hoyte
7734 16th Street NW
Washington DC 20012

JAN 03 REC'D

November 2011

Board of Zoning Adjustment
Office of Zoning
District of Columbia
Attn: Mr. Clifford Moy, Secretary, BZA

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to offer my support for the application of the Washington Ethical Society for a special exception to allow them to continue to house a daycare in their building.

Sincerely,



(please print name and address below in addition to signing above)

~~AARON~~ AARON SILVERMAN
1515 GALLATIN ST. N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20011

November 2011

JAN 11 REC'D

Board of Zoning Adjustment
Office of Zoning
District of Columbia
Attn: Mr. Clifford Moy, Secretary, BZA

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to offer my support for the application of the Washington Ethical Society for a special exception to allow them to continue to house a daycare in their building.

Sincerely,

R. William Wilson

(please print name and address below in addition to signing above)

*R. William Wilson
6827 4th St. NW #211
Wash. DC 20012*

November 2011

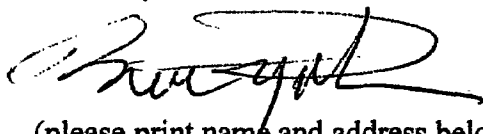
Board of Zoning Adjustment
Office of Zoning
District of Columbia
Attn: Mr. Clifford Moy, Secretary, BZA

JAN 28 RECD

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to offer my support for the application of the Washington Ethical Society for a special exception to allow them to continue to house a daycare in their building.

Sincerely,



(please print name and address below in addition to signing above)

Brett Fyock
7809 14th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20012

November 2011

Board of Zoning Adjustment
Office of Zoning
District of Columbia
Attn: Mr. Clifford Moy, Secretary, BZA

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to offer my support for the application of the Washington Ethical Society for a special exception to allow them to continue to house a daycare in their building.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Copeland".

(please print name and address below in addition to signing above)

Karen Copeland
6511 7th Pl NW
WDC 20012

Neighbors in the 200' area who have signed on in support of WES' request for a zoning exception to re-establish a daycare at our site (signatures will be provided in hard copy at the ANC meeting). These signatures include the houses on either side of WES on 16th St., both of which have alley access.

NAME	ADDRESS	DATE SIGNED
Robert Mason	7755 16 th St.	1-30-09
Delores Stancil	7746 16 th St.	1-30-09
Shirley Jackson	7760 16 th St.	1-30-09
Steven Jones	1605 Jonquil St.	1-31-09
Michelle Hoyte	7734 16 th St.	2-11-09
Godwin Bassey Elo	1601 Jonquil St.	2-11-09
Robert Sayre	7733 16 th St.	2-11-09
M.E. Rowe	7721 16 th St.	2-17-09

Names and addresses of Ward 4 residents who support the request for a special exception to bring a daycare into the WES building (through petitions, emails of support, and posts to Shepherd Park listserv—some unsolicited)

NAME	ADDRESS	DATE SIGNED
Sandhya Mehta & Jonathan Harwitz	1407 Leegate Rd.	12-15-08
Vanessa & Earle Sheppard	7930 14 th St.	12-15-08
Neile Quintero & Jan Weef	7901 14 th St.	12-15-08
Wilhemina Carter & Marquita White-Carter	1409 Leegate Rd.	12-15-08
Steve Milligan	1404 Primrose Rd.	12-28-08
Donald Alston	1436 Leegate Rd.	12-28-08
James Proctor	1431 Leegate Rd.	12-28-08
Nyna Thomas	1416 Leegate Rd.	12-28-08
Joseph Clark	1401 Kalmia Rd.	12-28-08
Brett Frock	7809 14 th St.	12-28-08
Bernadine Evans	1376 Locust St.	12-28-08
Ginger Fay & Ken Rona	1207 Floral St.	1-1-09
Barbara Abramowitz	7832 16 th St.	1-13-09
Ann Cataldo	8026 Eastern Ave.	1-20-09
Gerard Winstonly	7541 Alaska Ave.	1-20-09
Anna Teter	7035 Blair	1-20-09
Joell & Aaron Silverman	1515 Gallatin St.	1-20-09
Bill Wilson	6827 4 th St.	2-3-09

Karen Copeland	6511 7 th Pl.	2-5-09
Heidi Glenn		2-18-09
Michel Martin		2-19-09
Emma Villedrouin & Michael Drabble	14 th btn. Juniper & Jonquil	2-24-09
Alex Kincannon	14 th and Jonquil	2-24-09
Loretta Neumann	7124 Piney Branch Rd.	2-24-09
Brian Foster & Csilla Szabo	1424 Van Buren St.	2-24-09

To the Board of Zoning Adjustment:

BZA Case No. 17896

We, the undersigned neighbors of the Washington Ethical Society support its application for a special exception to establish a child care center for up to 40 children, ages 2 ½ to 5.

Name (Write)	(Print)	Address	Date
Sandhya Mehta		1407 Leegate Road	Dec 15, '08
* Jonathan Harwitz			
Vanessa + Earle Shappard		7930 14th St NW	12-15-08
Neile Quintana (Jan Wedg.)		3901 14th Ave NW	12-15-08
WILHELMINA C CARTER		1409 Leegate Rd. N.W.	12-15-08
Marquita White-Carter		1409 Leegate Road NW	12-15-08
Steve Milligan		1404 Primrose Rd NW	12-28-08
DONALD ALSTON		1436 Lee Gate Rd NW	12/28/08
James Proctor		1431 Leegate Rd NW DC	12/28/08
NINA Thomas		1416 Leegate Rd NW DC	12-28-08
Joseph Clark		1408 Kalmia Road NW	12/28/2008
Bonett Fryck		7909 14th St NW	12/29/08
Bernadine Evans		1376 Locust N.W.	12/28/08

BZA Case No. 17896

[illegible]

As a neighbor of the Washington Ethical
Society, I support bringing Wonders into
their building. I believe this neighborhood
needs high-quality daycare and Wonders
would be an asset to the neighborhood.

Barbara A. Abramowitz

BARBARA ABRAMOWITZ

7832 16th ST NW

20012

1/13/09

Amanda Poppei

From: Bill Wilson (wilson20012@yahoo.com)
Sent: Tuesday, February 03, 2009 4:36 AM
To: Amanda Poppei
Subject: Support for zoning to permit daycare at WEB

Amanda,

This letter is to support reinstatement of zoning for daycare at the Washington Ethical Society. While my kids are just beyond the need of daycare at this time, I remember the difficulty of finding quality care options in the area in the last few years. With the cables and toddlers among my neighbors in Takoma, DC, I think the center and location would be ideal.

As a member of WES, I know we will follow through on our commitment to see that traffic is not unduly impacted.

Please let me know if there is anyone I can specifically contact to support this effort.

Bill Wilson
8517 Fourth St., NW #1.
Washington DC 20012
202-422-4160

1

To: Amanda Poppei
Subject: support for wonders!

Amanda,

Just a note from a neighbor to let you know that we are enthusiastically in support of your efforts to bring Wonders to Shepherd Park!

With thanks,
Ginger L. & Ken Rona
1207 Florida Street NW

2/3/2009

Amanda Poppei

From: Joanne Hurt [jhurt@wonderschildcare.org]
Sent: Tuesday, February 24, 2009 11:43 AM
To: Amanda Poppei
Subject: FW: ANC Meeting for Wonders

-----Original Message-----

From: Mary Lou Kitchen [mailto:mlkitchen@wonderschildcare.org]
Sent: Tuesday, February 24, 2009 9:23 AM
To: Joanne Hurt
Subject: FW: ANC Meeting for Wonders

-----Original Message-----

From: Emma Villedrouin [mailto:emmaville@mac.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 24, 2009 6:57 AM
To: karl@kennedygroupllc.com; mbowser@dcccouncil.us
Cc: Mary Lou Kitchen
Subject: Re: ANC Meeting for Wonders

Dear Mr Kennedy, Ms Bowser and Fellow Shepherd Park Residents,

This letter is in support of the Wonders Child Care hoping to operate at The Washington Ethical Society at 7750 16th St, NW.

We are hoping to enroll our 2 year old son, Xavier, at Wonders this September. We live on 14th Street between Juniper and Jonquil. We would walk to the center which is only 2 blocks away.

When we purchased our house nearly 7 years ago, we were fully aware that we would live a block away from Shepherd Elementary. On school days people park on our street to shuttle there children to and from school. Every Saturday parking becomes tighter because of services on 16th street. Parking is especially tight for neighborhood meetings and on election days. I understand the fatigue expressed by those opposing the Wonders center but part of being a member of a vibrant community is accommodating to the needs of all the members.

The site at WIS can only accept a limited number of children. The traffic issues cited by those in opposition are minimal. Families in Shepherd Park need this service. Otherwise we will use services outside our neighborhood boundaries- which is a shame. We should promote walkability within our neighborhood with quality services.

Our 6 year old son, Felix, attended summer camp offered by Wonders at Somerset Elementary, MD. Wonders is an excellent organization with a proven track record. The staff is experienced, dedicated and friendly. We were very pleased WIS had Wonders as a prospective tenant because of the positive experience our son had. I sincerely hope other members of our community will benefit from their expertise. Which, so far, has only been available to our neighbors west of the park. Let us welcome this quality non-profit organization.

Best regards,

Emma Villedrouin and Michael Drabble

No virus found in this incoming message.
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Amanda Poppei

From: Heidi Glenn [heidi_glenn@hotmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 18, 2009 8:43 PM
To: Amanda Poppei
Subject: Daycare feedback from Ward 4 resident

My name is Heidi Glenn, and I am a resident of Ward 4. As the parent of an infant son, I am enthusiastic about the prospect of a daycare opening at the Washington Ethical Society. I think it would be an asset to the area, and as a neighbor of WES, I hope the plan to open the childcare facility is successful.

Sincerely,
Heidi Glenn
Ward 4 Resident

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2/19/2009

7750 16th St. NW

Washington, DC 20012

(202) 882-6650 x12

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[Messages in this topic \(5\)](#)

[Back to top](#)

1c. Re: WES and zoning exception

Posted by: "mookin02" alexk@alumni.virginia.edu mookin02
Tue Feb 24, 2009 11:16 am (PST)

I hope I will not alienate my neighbors by expressing my support for having the childcare facility at WES, assuming that a mutually satisfactory traffic/parking plan can be reached.

I also live on Jonquil St, half a block from the entrance to Shepherd ES, so I am very familiar with the dangerous driving/walking issues and parking problems associated with school and special events. My oldest child attended Rock Creek Children's Center--the childcare facility that operated at WES about 3 years ago-- so I am also aware of the issues regarding traffic in that alley and the problems with crossing 16th street. These issues are an important safety concern for all of us who live, drive, and walk in the area.

On the other hand, I feel that one of the perks of living in a vibrant urban neighborhood such as ours is to be able to walk to shops, schools, synagogues, and playgrounds. As a mother of 3 young children, I absolutely appreciate the convenience of being able to park right in front of my house all the time, but I would also love to be able to walk my child to the childcare facility at WES and fully plan to apply if it is approved.

Alex Kincannon

--- In shepherdpark@yahoogroups.com, Peter Kaplan <petermmkaplan@

...>

wrote:

>

> Thank all of you who are paying attention to this issue. Â As Joan made clear, there are very serious problems with this proposal and no sign that the applicants are taking neighborhood concerns seriously. Â I hasten to add: They are seeking an exception from zoning requirements to do this. Â Generally, zoning requirements are developed to provide criteria regarding land use to assure neighborhood integrity, safety and other such things. When an exception is sought, as in this case, the burden should be on the applicant to justify how the exception will present the problems that the requirements they are seeking to waive are intended to avoid. Â The views of the neighborhood should weigh heavily in the determination of whether the exception is in the public interest. Our Council member

2/24/2009

Amanda Poppei

From: Joanne Hurt [jhurt@wonderschildcare.org]
Sent: Tuesday, February 24, 2009 4:35 PM
To: Amanda Poppei
Subject: FW: Meeting for Wonders Child Day Care

Here is another letter....

-----Original Message-----

From: Mary Lou Kitchen [mailto:mlkitchen@wonderschildcare.org]
Sent: Tuesday, February 24, 2009 4:34 PM
To: Joanne Hurt
Subject: FW: Meeting for Wonders Child Day Care

Here's another letter of support.

-----Original Message-----

From: brian foster [mailto:bdfmail@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 24, 2009 8:56 AM
To: karl@kennedygrouppllc.com
Cc: Mary Lou Kitchen
Subject: Meeting for Wonders Child Day Care

Dear Mr. Kennedy,

If I can't attend the meeting tonight for the community regarding Wonders Child Day Care I wanted to be sure I contacted you by email in support of the day care center proposed for the Washington Ethical Society building on 16th Street.

As a parent of a two year old, and a member of this community for 5 years I was relieved to hear that a highly respected institution like Wonders was moving into the neighborhood. My wife and I have been searching for day cares in this area for about a month and Wonders is in my opinion the finest of the lot. Of course, the location is perfect - easily accessible, handsome building, etc. It does seem that Wonders Day Care is a good, solid business and I feel, as a community we should welcome them into their new home at the Ethical Society.

With that said, I understand the neighbors in the area are concerned about traffic in their alley way. I would hope that in the spirit of cooperation and mutual interest in the children who would benefit most from this day care center, that a compromise can be reached with regards to these concerns. If there is anything I can do to help the situation please contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Brian Foster, Csilla Szabo and Rocco (age 2)
1424 Van Buren Street NW
Washington DC 20012
(202) 684-0399

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Version: 8.0.237 / Virus Database: 270.11.3/1967 - Release Date: 02/24/09



Washington Ethical Society

Seeking the best in others, we find the best in ourselves.

7750 Sixteenth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20012
202-882-6650 FAX 202-829-1354
WES@ETHICALSOCIETY.ORG
WWW.ETHICALSOCIETY.ORG

Attached please find signatures or letters of support from 24 residents of Ward 4 in support of our request to have a special exception so that we can once again host a daycare center in our facility. These include the two houses on either side of our building, as well as the house directly opposite us on 16th Street.

We are continuing to reach out to community members, inviting them to send their support or add their signatures to the petition. We have had an extremely high success rate of gaining support from neighbors going door-to-door, and expect that with more time we could garner more signatures of support, if that would be helpful to the decision-making process.

To the Board of Zoning Adjustment:

BZA Case No. 17896

We, the undersigned neighbors of the Washington Ethical Society support its application for a special exception to establish a child care center for up to 40 children, ages 2 ½ to 5.

Name (Write)	(Print)	Address	Date
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* Jonathan Harwitz			
Vanessa + Earle Shappard		7930 14 th St. NW	12-15-08
Neile Gumbert & Jan Wedgins		7901 14 th St NW	12-15-08
WILHELMINA C. CARTER		1408 Leegate Rd. N.W.	12-15-08
Marquita White-Carter		1409 Leegate Road NW	12-15-08
Steve Milligan		1404 Primrose Rd NW	12-28-08
DONALD ALSTON		1436 Lee Gate Rd NW	12/28/08
James Proctor		1431 Leegate Rd NW DC	12/28/08
Nyona Thomas		1416 Leegate Rd NW DC	12/28/08
Joseph Clark		1408 Kalmia Road NW	12/28/2008
Brett Fyack		7909 14 th St NW	12/28/08
Bernadine Evans		1376 Locust N.W.	12/28/08

BZA Case No. 17896

[illegible]

BZA Case No. 17896

[illegible]

Amanda Poppei

From: Ginger Fay [gfay@faycc.com]
Sent: Monday, January 05, 2009 3:49 PM
To: Amanda Poppei
Subject: RE: support for wonders!

Hi Amanda,

I can't be at the meeting on the 3rd, unfortunately, but I'm happy to sign the petition if someone wants to come by or if I can stop by the WES. Just let me know! And we'll have to get our one year-olds together sometime...

Cheers,
G

From: Amanda Poppei [mailto:AmandaP@ethicalsociety.org]
Sent: Monday, January 05, 2009 9:51 AM
To: Ginger Fay
Subject: RE: support for wonders!

Ginger and Ken,

Thank you so much for your note of encouragement. Would you be willing to (or maybe you already have?) sign a petition in support of bringing Wonders? One of our congregation members would be happy to bring it by your house to sign, anytime before our ANC meeting on February 3.

We're also hoping to have people actually present at that meeting to offer a minute or so of testimony, since there will definitely be neighbors there testifying against having the center. I know that's a lot to ask, but is there any chance you'd be able to stop by that evening?

Thanks again for your support, I'm so hopeful that this will go through. As the mother of a 1 year old, I know we need good childcare here, because I've looked for it!

thanks,
Amanda

From: Ginger Fay [mailto:gfay@faycc.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 01, 2009 7:52 PM
To: Amanda Poppei
Subject: support for wonders!

Amanda,

Just a note from a neighbor to let you know that we are enthusiastically in support of your efforts to bring Wonders to Shepherd Park!

With thanks,
Ginger Fay & Ken Rona
1207 Floral Street NW

2/3/2009