

February 28, 2006

Mr. Geoffrey H. Griffis, Chair
Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia Office of zoning
441 4th St. NW, Suite 210-s
Washington, DC 20001

Re. App. #17429 Friends of St. Patrick's et al - Hearing 2/28/06 - Oppose until
storm water management concerns are properly addressed

Dear Chairman Griffis:

Storm water management in our city is a major concern and should be addressed in every new development project. This is especially true when a project is proposed for a hilly section of undeveloped woodland area, adjacent to a park containing a streambed, which is the case in this application.

As a resident of the Palisades neighborhood for many years, I have observed development projects that have resulted in serious erosion. In some cases, runoff has been devastating to our community and surrounding areas, including mudslides onto Canal Rd. as well as a serious (and costly) breach in the Canal berm at Little Falls Branch following a rainstorm.

Therefore, before any new development is approved for St. Patrick's school on Foxhall Rd., BZA should require the following:

1. Use low impact technology in the entire project.
2. Protect hills from runoff into Glover Park and streambed.
3. Minimize paved surfaces in all buildings and roads.
4. Add rain gardens/roof gardens to absorb water and prevent runoff.
5. Include storm water management topics in St. Patrick's curriculum, and use grounds as a model of good storm water management methods.
6. Invite visitors (including developers and city planners) to campus to showcase storm water management methods and how to apply them in other development projects.
7. Offer training programs on campus in low impact development technology for developers and home owners, and use campus as a model and as a laboratory.

Thank you for your consideration of these views.

Sincerely,


Sally Strain

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BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT
District of Columbia

CASE NO. 17429
EXHIBIT NO. 70

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