

Comments in OPPOSITION to The Boundary Companies and The Missionary Society BZA Case No. 19377

To the Board of Zoning Adjustment,

I am writing to you today to strongly oppose Case No. 19377, Application for Variance / Special Exception. The Boundary Companies and The Missionary Society would like to take 5 acres of undeveloped land on 4th St, NE and install 60 townhomes and a 20,000 square foot communal residence, along with private roads and sidewalks.

As the parent of students at Lee Montessori Public Charter School, located at 3025 4th St NE, I am very familiar with the land in question; my children play on the "front lawn" of the school nearly every day, in all kinds of weather. They climb trees, build forts, skip rocks in the retention pond when it is full, and build rock bridges across the retention pond when it is muddy. My children and their school mates and neighborhood friends are growing mentally and physically from their time outside, strengthening their imaginations with unstructured play, learning the value of teamwork and how to be good sports, and also internalizing a love of nature. The loss of this space would negatively affect the two charter schools who occupy 3025 4th St, NE, as well as the surrounding community, many of whom use this space on a daily basis.

According to The Comprehensive Plan for the National Capitol, the District's own strategic plan is for institutional properties, such as the one we are discussing, to be prioritized for parklands. (Planning and Development, section f.) This directive, along with the previous representations to the Zoning Commission that the land in question would be preserved from further development, (PUD Application, Case No. 07-27; 7/17/08 transcript, pp 24) should compel the BZA to deny the request to develop this space.

In conclusion, it should not be only the affluent in this city who have access to green space; children should not have to leave Ward 5 in order to climb a tree or dig a hole. Please protect one aspect that makes Edgewood and Brookland so special – the undisturbed green space available for children's play and neighborhood interactions.

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Submitted on 4/24/2018 by:

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