

Cochran, Patricia (DCOZ)

From: Michael McCaughan <Michael.McCaughan@previsionpolicy.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 2, 2022 8:59 AM
To: DCOZ - BZA Submissions (DCOZ)
Subject: BZA Application No. 20643: Maret School Athletic Fields Project

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COMMENTS IN SUPPORT

Michael McCaughan
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Dear Chairman Hill,

I am writing to you in support of the proposal to use the ECC property on Nebraska Avenue as a multi-use athletic field. I am a resident of ANC 3G (3907 Jocelyn Street) and also a Maret parent – although both of our children will have graduated before the proposed field would be available for use.

While I strongly value the luxury of having a pristine, semi-private park on the property, I also recognize that it is unrealistic (and probably a little selfish) to expect it to stay that way forever. Given the realities of the situation at ECC, I can think of no better outcome than the proposed plan to convert the site into an athletic field for Maret.

I can speak first-hand to Maret's commitment to being a good neighbor. My wife and I lived for 15 years literally around the corner from the Maret campus in Woodley Park, and we always viewed it as a positive force in our neighborhood—both before we had children and as young parents. We have fond memories of playing on the Maret playground and visiting their annual fete with toddlers in tow – welcomed as neighbors, even though we weren't parents at the school.

Indeed, our decision to send our kids to Maret (after they aged out of our local elementary school) was driven in large part by the welcoming, diverse and open community that we already enjoyed at the school.

Now that I am a Maret parent, I can see that the sense of community is no accident. The school deeply values being in every sense a good neighbor and a positive force in the broader community. I know Maret is listening carefully to ECC's neighbors to help make sure that the proposed new fields will be a great asset to the neighborhood for years to come.

I also want to speak as a long-time DC resident who raised two children who played recreational sports (softball, baseball and soccer) in the city. I know how important it was to our children to have that experience: the exercise, the fun, and the socialization (to say nothing of how much we as parents benefited from socializing with other parents when our kids were very little.)

I also remember well how those activities involved driving to another neighborhood to use a field – and, occasionally, having games cancelled or rescheduled because a field was unavailable.

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.20643
EXHIBIT NO.124

Simply put, DC needs more high quality athletic fields that the community can use. I know Maret is committed to making the field available to other organizations (including DC Soccer). While that may feel like a further disruption to the status quo, I strongly believe the neighborhood and the city overall will benefit greatly from having more fields to support youth athletics.

I also know how much my family benefited from using fields that other neighborhoods supported. I hope our neighborhood can do the same for others in the future.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I would happily provide any additional information you might want.

Best,

Mike

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