

May 1, 2014

We are writing to support the proposed development at McMillan, but only if there are substantial modifications to the park and community center as follows:

- 1) The southern service court should be eliminated, and the southern silos should be incorporated into the park.
- 2) A welcoming entrance for Bloomingdale should be created at First and Channing. It should be landscaped and contain benches, and an entrance gate such as is found at the entrance to LeDroit Park. Currently, this southwest portion of the site is neglected. First Street is Bloomingdale's Main Street, and that southwestern portion of the site should be given much more attention.
- 3) The large open spaces should be programmed. The plain open space is too large as it stands and is unlikely to be productively used. There should be more trees, zen gardens, picnic benches, playgrounds, public art, etc. Yards Park is an example of well-programmed space, and similar concepts could be integrated. Additionally, for inspiration on trees/flowers, please see the National Arboretum.
- 4) The recreation center should be larger -- think Turkey Thicket Recreation Center, which is well used. It should have a large pool open 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. for lap swimming. There should be a gym, as well as a weight room. Various classes should be offered.

Sincerely,
Joe Gersen & Alicia Hunt