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Sent: Monday, November 11, 2024 12:19 PM
To: DCOZ - ZC Submissions (DCOZ)
Cc: Schellin, Sharon (DCOZ)
Subject: Public Comment on Zoning Case 23-25

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Dear Commissioners:

Zoning case 23-25 has been set down improperly, and Chevy Chase residents deserve their rights to a contested case.

First, I am opposed to giving private developers building rights on public lands that are still used for public use.

Second, I am opposed to an RFP process that was flawed, proposing an outsized 80 foot building height and 60% lot coverage; and IMPORTANTLY ignoring and thus eliminating the ball court, children’s play area, reading area outside the library and community center and all possible on-site parking. These are important community resources that will be lost in the process, and their unique role in drawing together diverse users in age, gender and race in a unique way. At a time when we need to encourage reading in our youth these amenities soften what can become a sterile library experience for young readers. At a time of an aging population demographic, we need to preserve and offer additional opportunities for social engagement and fitness.

Third, Chevy Chase DC small businesses are at risk, given that the RFP includes the potential commercial use of the space. Already, the block across from the Wells Fargo Bank next to the bus terminal has not been successful for the small businesses attempting to locate there and could be ideal for low rise mixed use. We do not need to give away public land that can never be reclaimed.

By passing the proposed rezoning you are providing a gift of public land - the Chevy Chase Commons Park, Library and Community Center - to developers for their personal profit. The residents of Chevy Chase will lose important resources currently available to them.

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