

Cochran, Patricia (DCOZ)

From: Kay Tucker <kaytucker4@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, November 30, 2024 12:47 PM
To: DCOZ - ZC Submissions (DCOZ)
Subject: Fwd: DC Zoning case 23-25

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From: Kay Tucker <kaytucker4@gmail.com>
Date: Sat, Nov 30, 2024 at 12:44 PM
Subject: DC Zoning case 23-25
To: <zcsubmissins@dc.gov>
Cc: <sharon.schellin@dc.gov>

Dear Commissioners:

Zoning case 23-25 was set down improperly; Chevy Chase residents have a right to a contested case, so that we can present evidence and cross-examine witnesses, and so that we will have the right to appeal the zoning decision.

I am writing to oppose any plan to give the public property that includes and surrounds the current DC public library and community center adjacent to Connecticut Avenue, NW, and McKinley Street, NW, to private developers. I believe this area is known as the Chevy Chase Commons Park, Library and Community Center.

While both buildings on this property would benefit significantly from renovations and other investment, this area, which includes two important facilities, a patch of green space, some outdoor play space and some accessible parking space is an important community resource. If additional higher density housing is erected on other available nearby sites, it will become even more important. Rather than hand this land over to development that will not serve the public interest longterm, the city should be funding restoration work and community programs that benefit the children and families of this neighborhood.

When my daughter was young, we often spent a day or more each week in one of the two buildings. She took ballet lessons and other classes there, and I attended local theater productions, exercise classes and other activities. We both used the library. Now that I am nearing retirement, I would greatly appreciate activities for seniors in that space. Rebuilding smaller facilities inside an outsized building that would consume the majority of the space on that site is short-sighted and unnecessary when other nearby properties are available that could provide the housing options being sought.

For the record, my home is in Ward 3 but not immediately adjacent to this property, so I am not writing out of concern for who might become my neighbors or my own property value. I am writing out of concern for permanently losing an important community resource that deserves to be rejuvenated rather than traded away for some temporary housing benefit to for-profit developers who are not invested in the longterm interests of this neighborhood.

I have never earned the kind of income that people need to move into this neighborhood today, so I am sympathetic to the need for affordable housing and grateful that I bought my home a very long time ago. Now, the ever-increasing property taxes that I pay each year are a big enough concern for me to wonder if I will be able to continue to stay in this area throughout my retirement. But, as long I am paying those taxes, having a fully functional community center and public library in my community on a patch of green space with a small outdoor play area and basketball court in a place where one already exists seems to be a fair expectation and a small request. Please retain this property as public property solely for public use, invest in making it a vital neighborhood resource again and designate some of the other properties that have been suggested for erecting the new housing that is desired.

Thank you.

Kay Tucker
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Washington, DC 20015