

DC Zoning Commission
Hearing Regarding the PUD for the McMillan Sand Filtration Site
Tuesday, May 13th, 2014

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Good evening Chairman Hood and Commission Members My name is Jared Heming, I am an intern architect working here in the city and I live at 6 Rhode Island Ave NW, right on the corner of North Capitol and Rhode Island My comments tonight will be focused on the park as many supporters of the project have expounded on views I share, including the value of the grocery store, neighborhood retail, and the community center

Of the many things I enjoy about Bloomingdale, I especially love that on nice evenings it's common to see neighbors hanging out on their porch or gathered on the steps In that light, I view the proposed park as a grand civic porch, a raised open space on which friends and family can gather, up off the streets, and catch a southerly breeze. Though I understand the attraction of a large expansive park, I believe this park's success depends on its active use and the surrounding density. A handy comparison is Meridian Hill Park At 8 acres, the proposed park is approximately two-thirds the size of Meridian Hill If we subtract some of the areas in Meridian that are more a landscape to be viewed than a place to be used, we get useable space a little closer in size to the proposed Additionally, Meridian's topography and relationship to the surrounding streets I find analogous to the proposed park, for instance the limited number of access points along the berm or the gradual gradients along First Street and North Capitol Meridian Hill is a successful urban park, reliant on the efforts and engagement of the surrounding residents With Meridian Hill as a case study and from the renderings shown in VMP's proposal I believe this tree lined and grassy plinth will become a great park and a great benefit to the neighborhood. In that regard, it might be appropriate for the applicant to begin engaging in a civic partnership to generate a sense of stewardship for the park from the first day it opens Though the land might be VMP's the park will be ours by its nature and use.

Overall I believe the proposal transforms McMillan into a distinct urban palimpsest – a place that makes legible the history of the site and its creation while still establishing a new district alongside one of the most important axial views in the region I am happy to voice my support of this project and very much look forward to a warm summer evening, when I can go hang out on that big grassy porch Thank you very much for your time