

Cochran, Patricia (DCOZ)

From: Craig KELLY <craig.kelly@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 18, 2021 4:00 PM
To: DCOZ - ZC Submissions (DCOZ)
Subject: Do NOT replace our Bruce Monroe Park with a giant tower (16-11)

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Hello DC Zoning Commission:

I am strongly opposed to replacing Bruce Monroe Community Park with a 9 story plus penthouse tower.

As I understand, the new Comprehensive Plan requires a thorough impact assessment to ensure that negative impacts on neighborhoods, transportation, environmental quality, and other issues are assessed and adequately mitigated. The DC Appeals Court made clear that this was not thoroughly done.

As I understand, previous opportunities for community input, which were facilitated by the developer, were largely limited to comments focused on how to redevelop Park Morton and specifically excluded community opposition to using the park for development. Immediate neighbors to Bruce Monroe Community Park were not represented on matters related to the park that were brought before the Advisory Neighborhood Commission. This has been a failed process conducted by the city, and we request that the city start again from the beginning. At every stage, the process has ignored community input and pushed through an unpopular plan that only serves to put millions of dollars into the pockets of developers.

The plan to take away Bruce Monroe Park is wrong on many levels. The plan fails to serve the needs of all of the neighbors of the park and all Ward 1 residents who already have limited access to green space.

I am completely in favor of open public space and more housing, affordable and market rate, but the plans to build a 90-100 foot / 10-story building on such a neighborhood treasure is a bad idea. Once a building is built, the greenspace goes away forever. The Park View area is comprised of century-old row houses of 2 floors with the occasional 3 or 4 story building. Such a building will be triple or quadruple the size of any surrounding buildings, cut natural sunlight to those surrounding the building.

Along with a building of 10-stories comes parking issues. Parking is also at a premium in the area. The new DC DOT plan to eliminate parking on the south side of Kenyon Street will make parking worse.

Bruce Monroe is a wonderful park. I loving taking the kids here over the past several years for pick-up basketball games, playing tennis (best kept secret in Columbia Heights), tend our little plot in the garden, and picnics.

The park has been a blessing during the COVID-19 pandemic and shutdown.

In short, stop this nonsense about getting rid of the park.

Thanks,

Craig Kelly

724 Kenyon Street NW