

Lee, Chris

From: Theresa T <theresatops@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2015 11:57 AM
To: Lee, Chris; Kovac, Nik; Bohl, James; Perez, Jose; Bauman, Robert; Wade, Willie; Zielinski, Tony
Subject: Faust Building

Dear Committee Members:

I am unable to attend the Zoning and Neighborhood Development Committee meeting on 9/15. However, I would like to go on record as to my opposition to this zoning request of the Faust building.

I am a lifelong Bay View resident. I am invested financially and emotionally in the future of Bay View. I am the co-founder of the Village Roots Garden next to the Beulah Brinton Community Center and was the Community Organizer in Bay View for many years (early 2000's). I am invested and plan to remain in this community.

It is my belief as a community member and a practitioner in community development that the development being proposed is inappropriate in size and design for the Kinnickinnic retail corridor. The scale of this development is too large to maintain the character of the neighborhood and the design will not serve as a welcoming gateway to our community. There are more appropriate sites that can be explored to attract more density to Bay View. It is imperative that we take a step back and be thoughtful and deliberate about development projects.

I recently spent a month in Portland, Oregon and have witnessed the destruction of many a neighborhoods such as ours because of the type of development being proposed on the Faust site. Many historic buildings are continuing to be removed and high density "boxes" are being put up, without consideration of the neighborhoods aesthetics, history, or concerns. I do not want to see this happen in Bay View.

This development is a direct contradiction to the Southeast Comprehensive Plan. The spirit of that plan and the intent of the residents was to preserve the traditional character of the neighborhood and enhance quality of life. The public put their trust in this planning process and to ignore those efforts now will hinder future public involvement and public trust.

This development will set the standard for future developments. Bay View is one of Milwaukee's most successful neighborhoods. The free market is leading the way in retail, we are seeing greater diversity in our residential population, and resident engagement is higher than ever. Now is the time to require a very high standard of community development. We may not have another opportunity to get it right. There are other means to bringing foot traffic to KK, this development should not be considered the only option.

Please consider my opposition to this development and others who share the same opinion. Thank you for your time and consideration,

Sincerely,

Theresa Toporsh
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