

Koster, Vanessa

From: Barbara Lewczyk [barbaralewczyk@milwpc.com]
Sent: Saturday, April 21, 2007 4:08 PM
To: planadmin
Subject: Downer Ave. Redevelopment Zoning Change, Phase I, file # 070034

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed development of the land at Downer Ave. and Belleview with the construction of a 5-story parking structure. I live in a neighborhood just south of this area and appreciate the beauty and architectural interest in this east side area. This is why I live where I do. I am not a Milwaukee native but moved here from Buffalo, New York some years ago and was very impressed with the beauty of Milwaukee's lake front and the historic homes and other buildings in the neighborhoods along the east side corridor. This is one of the prime reasons that I chose to continue living in Milwaukee. Preserving and respecting the uniqueness and beauty of our architectural heritage is important for quality of life. It is important in showcasing the uniqueness of our city and drawing both new residents and commerce to the city. It is also important to consider the impact on current residents, who value living where they do for the same reasons I do. I understand the economic motivation for development of land to bring in revenue to the city. However, development can be planned in a way that is respectful and preserves the beauty and architectural integrity of an area that truly deserves that and that is recognized for its historic value! The proposed parking structure is not compatible with the neighborhood in its size or its appearance.

I am also writing on behalf of Thea and Peter Kovac, owners of the home on the adjacent lot, because of problems and safety issues with their home that would be caused by the proposed parking structure. Not only would the parking structure overwhelm the house, it would cut off light and limit access to the back yard and also potentially cause structural problems in the house during construction of the garage because of its proximity. Any benefit of new building should not be done at the expense of safety and quality of life and home for the adjacent homeowner.

In addition, I am opposed to the sale of this land to New Land Enterprises since I am aware of issues of poor construction in some of their other developments and because of their plans for an inappropriate structure to be built here.

Please consider in your choice a plan that is a "win-win" for all concerned: the city, the residents and retailers of the area who value its uniqueness and beauty. Development in the Downer Ave. area that is more compatible with and respectful of the neighborhood and the residents would be "feather in the cap" of the city developers. Thank you!

Barbara Lewczyk
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