

**From:** EjjOlson@aol.com [mailto:EjjOlson@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 10, 2007 1:35 PM  
**To:** planadmin  
**Cc:** editor@sheperdexpress.com; tdaykin@journalssentinel.com; wgould@journalssentinel.com; pmillard@bizjournals.com; bobby@staff.onmilwaukee.com; awagner@conley.net.com  
**Subject:** Committee for Planned Development

### **Planning Commission Members**

The Committee for Balanced Development which generated more than 1300 signatures against the 11 story condominium finds the letters from **the National Trust for Historic Preservation** and the **Wisconsin Trust for Historical Preservation** clear statements of the sentiments of the majority of the East Side residents who have very clearly indicated their dismay and rejection of the plans promulgated by New Land Enterprises and Van Buren Management for Downer Avenue. This rejection includes the proposed parking garage which will be discussed at a future meeting.

Clearly you are intelligent individuals committed to sound planning principles, or the Mayor would not have appointed you to your august body. However, as an urban planner and former architect, I am in a quandary relative to your role in making sound decisions relative to planning issues in the City of Milwaukee. Your decision making process and lack of independence from recommendations from DCD and from developers with less than stellar track records, confuses city residents, since it was our belief that you should be objective brokers of multiple constituencies, most important of which should be the residents and tax payers of the City of Milwaukee.

I bring these issues up regarding your past decision of approving a GPD for the Downer area, having heard a large number of individuals against the GPD, with no comments on your part at the public meeting regarding the decision you were making or the input you received at the meeting. I was most amazed to have heard a rumor that you had met the week previous (I question the legality of such a meeting) with the developer and DCD to review the proposed recommendations.

As noted in the letters from the Historic Preservation groups, the specific recommendations to build a parking garage and bank in the Historic District at 2574-90 North Downer, confound any thoughtful individual who uses the Downer Shopping area on an ongoing basis. As noted in letters from businesses not under rental agreements with the new owner, the loss of street parking will be disastrous. Also the infringement on the adjacent residential area is almost Kafkaesque in its rejection of a neighborhood whose historical architectural character is noted throughout the United States. The design of the building is a Disney-like Las Vegas caricature of quality architecture.

I must again share with you that a majority of East Side residents feel as though these plans have been railroaded through any logical process and debate, and have arrived at some very negative opinions of the objectivity of the process, elected officials, and legal authorities/bodies created to represent the citizens of the City of Milwaukee.

I trust that, hopefully, previous opinions/actions relative to Downer Avenue and the parking structure will be mollified by a deliberate and thoughtful process on your part relative to the review of the letters from the **National and Wisconsin Trusts for Historic Preservation** in addition to the many letters of dismay from the citizens of the East Side.

**Sincerely yours,**

**Edward jj Olson**  
Community Resident and Area Business Owner

**Committee for Balanced Development**

