

Koster, Vanessa

From: ginny262@aol.com
Sent: Saturday, April 21, 2007 5:52 PM
To: planadmin
Subject: re: file# 070034

To Whom it May Concern:
From: Virginia Stocker
845 E Glen Ave
Whitefish Bay, WI 53217
Re: Planned parking facility at 2574 N Downer Ave/Milwaukee/53211

I am a life long resident of both the North Shore and Milwaukee's East Side. I have shopped, dined, and watched films on Downer Avenue since I was a child. Part of my attraction to the area, as I grow older, is that Downer Avenue is one of the remaining business areas in Milwaukee that really FEELS like Old Milwaukee, and maintains a connection with it's neighborhood. There are no high-rise buildings, no tall parking structures that blot out sky and trees, no sense that ONLY profit dictates the use of space.

When I heard that a tall parking structure made of plastic and taking up every square inch of open space on the corner of Belleview and Downer was being considered, I felt that I needed to speak up, voice an objection, AND make a suggestion. I wonder if the city has considered a multilevel structure that burrows underground rather than blotting out sky and sun and knocking down trees. Such structures have been built with grassy areas, gardens and benches on the top level. They have provided more parking AND beautified the areas they inhabit. I have used such structures in Evanston, IL and San Francisco.

I urge that the planners look at the impact of turning over this unique piece of Milwaukee history to people who have no sensitivity for the neighborhood or it's history. And I would hope the city would want to continue to own, operate and maintain a space which could both increase parking in the area and beautify it at the same time. Selling that land to a developer means losing a say in how our community grows and what it becomes. Please reconsider the present plans for the parking area and do your homework before it's too late and out of your hands. Downer Avenue's suburban neighbors look to it as a place to spend their time and money. Speaking as one of them, I would not view the area in the same way if the present plans are realized. I would spend my time and money elsewhere, and I do not think I'm alone in that point of view.
Sincerely, VS

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