

Ryan Harriman

From: Andrew Leon
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2023 1:08 PM
To: Ryan Harriman
Subject: FW: Baskin Robbins site, DSR22-014, Building Permit 2207-281

From: Richard Winslow <w0301@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2023 1:06 PM
To: Design Commission <Design.Commission@mercergov.org>
Cc: Andrew Leon <andrew.leon@mercerisland.gov>; Ryan Harriman <ryan.harriman@mercerisland.gov>; Deb Estrada <Deborah.Estrada@mercerisland.gov>; Council <council@mercergov.org>
Subject: Baskin Robbins site, DSR22-014, Building Permit 2207-281

Dear Design Commission and others: I am writing to submit my comments, and my objections, to the proposed design of the new 10-unit apartment building on the former Baskin-Robbins site. Some of my comments indicate that the specified features of this proposed building violate the spirit, and possibly the letter, of the environmentally-important Mercer Island Climate Action Plan.

1) Green Paint: it is impossible to accept that painting a wall or a roof the color green is a substitute for a building which is actually "green." The neighbors on the north side of this building would be looking out into a green wall instead of the current territorial view. This is not only demeaning but environmentally unacceptable and a violation of the Climate Action Plan. And a green-painted roof to satisfy an environmental requirement is insulting.

2) The building itself, four stories high, will be shutting out most sunlight to 10 or more apartments in the building to the north, and six or more apartments to the east. This situation violates any ordinary definition of environmentally friendly.

3) The building code may call for 10% of the apartments to be "affordable," so the proposed building can have one apartment which is at an "affordable" rate. In the current housing environment, an apartment whose rent is, let's say, 60% of the current Mercer Island value, is certainly not going to a low-income person.

4) The proposed building will have 11 parking stalls, one of which is for a disabled person. That means that one person with a disability may live and park there, such as someone needing to use a cane or a walker, as I do. Any disabled visitor will be out of luck. If any non-disabled visitor wishes to visit, he/she/they may find that there is no space of any kind. And finally, if any renter/renters happen to have more than one vehicle, (certainly very possible) those vehicles will have no space and thus will contribute to downtown density.

Those are my major objections, though I am sure that other Mercer Islanders have made other ones. I am sending a copy of this message to the City Council as well.

Yours truly, Richard Winslow, MI resident for 37 years. 3761 77th Ave. SE, Mercer Island.