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To: [Robin Proebsting](#)
Cc: [Mona Davis](#); [Alison VanGorp](#)
Subject: Letter re East Seattle School Property SEP17-020 and SUB19-002
Date: Monday, June 24, 2019 1:05:17 PM

This letter is a formal response to the application for demolition SEP17-020 and the application for subdivision of the property SUB19-002. I wish to be a party of record on both applications and to be notified of any hearings or meetings concerning these applications.

It was clear in the meeting on June 20, 2019 that the neighborhood and many Mercer Island residents value this property for its history, green space and use by children. The school building is the obvious historical marker, and many would like it preserved, or at least those portions that have been designated as historically significant. It could be used as a center for the homeowners and even rented out for activities for other groups. The building is eligible for historical designation, and could include photos and other information on the history of Mercer Island. The School and the Symphony House provide an entrance to Mercer Island as well as to our neighborhood. Surely the School deserves the same respectful preservation that was given to the Symphony House.

If saving the building is not possible, the developer should provide mitigation greater than a 200 square foot plot of land. When purchased, the property was promised as ball fields, and it has been used as that ever since. With the neighborhood's smaller lots, there needs to be a green space where families can toss a ball and play with their children. I recommend that a 8,000 square foot public park be provided on the property with historical photographs and stories about the school, church, post office and many activities that have happened on the property. Safety of children must also be considered, and so the only entrance to and from the property should be on 30th Street, with a single road through the property leading to individual houses. 62nd Avenue and 28th Street are too narrow for the number of driveways suggested, and the turn onto 28th Street from West Mercer Way going south is sharp and dangerous, with poor sightlines. The crosswalk going north from the property on West Mercer Way across 28th Street leads to Secret Park, so adding traffic at that intersection would endanger children and as well as other pedestrians.

These recommendations have precedent in the Coval property, where the number of houses first proposed was decreased and a single public road was installed as access to all houses. In addition, a lovely Koi pond and bridge, along with landscaping that typified the original property was maintained. I recently walked there with friends and appreciated that those features provide a link to the feel of the original historical property and are open to the public. I also understand that the wooden ceiling from the Coval home was saved in hopes of using it in MICA. Saving parts of East Seattle School in a similar way would honor the early history of Mercer Island.

I urge the protection of the history, green space and safe use by children that has marked this historical property for so many years. Providing a public historical park and one access road would make the development an integral part of the place where Mercer Island began: our East Seattle neighborhood.

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