

From: John Mason
To: [Robin Proebsting](#)
Subject: Old Mercer Island Boys and Girls Club Site- REQUEST FOR PUBLIC HEARING
Date: Wednesday, May 8, 2019 11:08:50 AM
Attachments: [Comments- East Seattle School Re-Development.docx](#)

Robin,

I thank you in advance for your attention to my comments. This is not the first time I have submitted comments regarding the proposed change of purpose to the East Seattle School site.

As former long-time neighbors to this historic property, my wife and I have had a vested interest in the significance of it. We have fought on its behalf to make it better, and we have tried to advocate for its sustained place in the East Seattle community, and Mercer Island at large. We believe the old school building, even in its long-neglected state has symbolic meaning to the community deserving our respect, and our acknowledgement as a civic landmark. The property has huge but untested potential, (with the right design vision and experience employed,) to be a commercially viable mixed-use property that stands as a symbol of our community's heritage, something neglected in my opinion, even more than the school.

It's not the easy way to redevelop the property, which makes people reluctant to engage, but it is the right thing to do, certainly in this case.

I believe it is the city's responsibility to see that the greater good is served, and the larger impacts of developments big and small. And as a designer who has worked all over the world on mixed-use projects, I see the broader potential to serve more people than just those who stand to make the most money, through a thoughtful process. Unfortunately, many Islanders feel this process has not really been responsibly undertaken.

A neighbor updated me on the proposed development documents that illustrates 14 dense housing units, which from almost any perspective (other than maximum return on investment by a developer) is wrong. Size matters in a neighborhood like East Seattle, in particular. The impact on the surrounding neighborhood will be profoundly negative. Just from a storm water point of view alone, 14 homes sending water toward 62nd Ave SE on a NICE DAY, spells flooding without a major public works project no developer will pay for. My wife and I can testify to the water problem. That is just one example, among many.

I'd strongly encourage you to reconsider the proposed redevelopment of the East Seattle School property, and to hold a public hearing to entertain new ideas that may result something we can all be proud of. If that is reaching too high, let's aim toward something everyone can live with.

I am attaching a word document that I posted on the Nextdoor website yesterday.

Please acknowledge that you have received my comments, and will consider my request.

Thank you,

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