January 28, 2019

Dear Members of the Mercer Island Planning Commission,

The Board of the Mercer Island Country Club has reviewed the draft code of the Community Facilities Zone. We appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback on areas of the draft code that could impact our ability to enhance our facility.

The primary area of concern is the height limit. We appreciate the need to differentiate between large and small sites; however, the limit of 30 feet within 150 feet of the property line for a small site is overly restrictive on a tennis facility. We currently have 7 indoor courts and 8 outdoor courts; during the winter months we are at maximum utilization of the indoor courts.

As the only facility on the island with indoor courts, we serve as a feeder program for MISD’s tennis teams, while also giving our families and seniors a safe and comfortable place to exercise in the winter. We would like to be able to host more juniors tournaments during the school year but are maxed out due to capacity constraints in the winter months. We have no desire or plans to expand our lot coverage or to expand the club. Simply covering some of the outdoor courts during the rainy season would enable our members to use their membership year-round, and allow the club to host more junior tournaments for the wider community.

Our suggestion to the Planning Commission is to change the draft code to allow small sites to put up temporary structures up to 40 feet tall for up to six months a year. We would be happy to meet with you to discuss what these requirements would look like in more detail, and to answer any questions you might have.

Sincerely,

Erin Gurney

Vice President, Mercer Island Country Club Board of Directors

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