



WEST SIDE CITIZENS ORGANIZATION

127 West Winifred Street
Saint Paul, MN 55107

February 1, 2011

City of Saint Paul
Legislative Hearing Officer

Re: 43 Water Street East

On January 27, 2010, the WSCO Riverfront and Development Committee approved a motion to reiterate the organization's opposition to the proposed parking lot at 43 Water Street East. Please see the attached letter dated June 3, 2010.

The use of this property as a parking lot is contrary to the land use articulated in the City of Saint Paul's approved West Side Flats Master Plan and violates the City's commitment to "green" living. Further, the Committee is not satisfied that there are sufficient measures in place to ensure the parking lot remains a temporary use.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Elena Gaarder
Executive Director
West Side Citizens Organization

June 3, 2010

Councilmember Dave Thune
Ward 2
310-B City Hall
15 Kellogg Blvd., West
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear Councilmember Thune:

On May 27, 2010, the West Side Citizens Organization's Riverfront and Development Committee reviewed the application presented by TransPark Incorporated to formalize a "Temporary Parking Operation and Management Agreement" with the City of St. Paul to establish a regulated parking lot on Block 20 of the West Side Flats.

While the committee members understood the need to address the random, unauthorized parking that is currently taking place on at the site, we felt that it would better serve the West Side to install "No Parking" signs and tow unauthorized vehicles.

The committee felt strongly that the City should not turn development sites into parking lots. Members felt that the City should encourage the use of the existing, and we surmise underutilized parking in downtown St. Paul. The best solution would of course be the use of mass transit. Certainly the committee felt that the city should not undercut its commitment to "green" living by allowing automobile owners to use the West Side Flats as a park and ride lot, or even a park and walk lot.

The other consideration is the continued pollution at the site through the inevitable leaking of oil, gas, and cooling fluids onto this gravel lot. Neither the West Side nor the river needs any added pollution.

Thank you for considering this committee's concerns. We are sharing this with the WSCO board.

Sincerely,

Hokan Miller
Chair, Riverfront and Development Committee

Cc: Monica Bryand