

-----Original Message-----

From: McCabe Susan [<mailto:otnmccabe@gmail.com>]

Sent: Saturday, February 22, 2020 12:02 PM

To: Anderson, Tia (CI-StPaul) <Tia.Anderson@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Subject: 20-010-837 Luther Seminary parking lot on Branston

Think Before You Click: This email originated outside our organization.

I am writing in support of the appeal regarding the parking lot expansion on Branston Street. I understand the seminary is in a major sell off mode and has been making a lot of changes with it's properties. However, these changes affect our neighborhood to a great degree.

First it was the sell off of the property on the main campus, trees were cut down and 49 units were built. Then there is the sell off of the Breck Woods area where there will be approximately 450 new units, and another major destruction of the trees and woods areas. Yesterday the seminary began taking down 5 more trees at the end of Branston which they said were diseased and damaged, even though they were 3 different species, most of which leafed out beautifully last summer. One of the oaks had a diameter of over 3-4 feet. These changes affect the character and feel of our neighborhood. I wonder how many more trees will be cut down to build yet another parking lot. It seems with the seminary going to a more on-line program they wouldn't need more places for cars.

Also, kids play on Monkey Island, roll down the hill and chase each other around. We don't need more cars on this dead end street.

Thank you.

Susan McCabe
1455 Grantham Street

-----Original Message-----

From: Pat Coppo [<mailto:coppopatricia@gmail.com>]

Sent: Saturday, February 22, 2020 12:08 PM

To: Anderson, Tia (CI-StPaul) <Tia.Anderson@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Subject: File: 20-010-837 Luther Seminary South Campus

Think Before You Click: This email originated outside our organization.

Dear Ms. Anderson,

I write to express my concern regarding the approval for Lutheran Seminary to expand a parking lot at 1465 Branston Street.

The area in dispute is across a dead-end street from a lovely pocket park affectionately called Monkey Island by those of us who live by the park. For decades (as long as anyone can remember) that little park has been a safe play area for small children as there has not been much traffic around the park. The importance of the park to this community was demonstrated several years ago when the playground equipment was getting old and needed to be replaced and the community raised the funds for new equipment.

Several features of an urban neighborhood that make it attractive to families is the feeling of community and safety. A shared play space where children and their parents (and grandparents and other caregivers) can meet, watch their children play and get to know each other is a critical component of that model. The increased street traffic to and from the expanded parking area that the seminary wants to develop will make it much more dangerous for little children to safely access the park. Please reconsider the permit to expand the parking. The safety and sense of community of the families in the area depends on your actions.

Patricia Coppo
1455 Grantham St, St Paul, MN

From: Glen Skovholt [<mailto:gskovholt@aol.com>]

Sent: Friday, February 28, 2020 11:01 AM

To: Anderson, Tia (CI-StPaul) <Tia.Anderson@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; Hahm, Michael (CI-StPaul) <michael.hahm@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; info@sapcc.org; mmorrow001@luthersem.edu; mitra.jalai@ci.stpaul.mn.us

Subject: Luther Seminary request to expand parking on Branston Street

February 28, 2020

Mitra Jalail Nelson
St. Paul City Council
4th Ward
City of St. Paul, MN

Subject: Luther Seminary request to expand parking on its lot on Branston Street

Dear Mitra:

I am writing regarding a proposal by Luther Seminary to expand a parking lot at the south end of Branston Street.

My interest is as a long-time neighbor on Grantham Street, but more directly as one who helped lead the successful effort to renovate the playground, known in the neighborhood as "Monkey Island" in 2013. As Mike Hahn can attest the playground was close to being eliminated because of obsolete and unsafe equipment.

The neighborhood and St. Paul Parks and Recreation worked together to create a first-class playground that is used by the children in the neighborhood.

I am concerned that the increased traffic on Branston Street from the expanded parking lot is going to be a risk to children who cross Branston Street to use the playground. Branston is a narrow street that is not designed to handle increased traffic and the playground is at the top of a rather steep hill.

The Saint Anthony Park Community Council recognized the potential risk to the children when it conditioned its approval of the parking lot with the caveat that Luther Seminary "limit traffic from the lot and slow traffic on Branston."

I am troubled that this condition is not included in the final approval by the city. My fear is that the Seminary will not take actions to limit traffic unless directed to by the City.

My request is that the expansion of the parking be conditioned by a requirement that the Seminary take specific actions to accommodate the traffic concerns expressed by the Community Council.

Sincerely yours,

Glen J. Skovholt
1473 Grantham Street
St. Paul, MN 55108
gskovholt@aol.com

Cc: Kathryn Murray, St. Anthony Park Community Council; Mike Hahn, St. Paul Parks and Recreation; Michael Morrow, Luther Seminary