

City Council President Lantry and Council Members,

The Public Works proposal to allow metered parking on the South side of Sixth Street in Lowertown, while a step in the right direction, still needs to be a plan that works for the long term. This is after all a permanent change to Lowertown's streetscape. Once the concrete sidewalk is widened to 18 ft., that sidewalk and utilities, will not realistically be removed again. So if traffic flow, and truck loading on Sixth Street is hindered as most people who oppose this expansion believe, and that is most of the people, the next and only change would be the removal of all the metered parking. There needs to be assurance this won't happen. Even with morning rush hour restrictions on parking, the YMCA will lose their handicap parking not to mention that parking for their early morning customers.

As you know parking and traffic are not the only reasons so many people object to this experiment on this now very healthy patient, Mears Park. The historic streetscape will be lost as well as the pedestrian flow that now works quite well. While I've said all along this project will end up costing half a million dollars (not \$270,000), the assessment agreements now reflect \$484,000. This is where the whole project doesn't pass the smell test. How is it possible for the building owners to make economic sense for handful of additional tables, for a few months of the year, justify this expense. What don't we know about?

State law only allows seating for alcohol consumption compact and contiguous to the establishment selling and serving the customers. This actually eliminates much of the Bulldog and all of the Bin Wine Café from use of any outside seating. Minneapolis was able to get the state to allow seating across a sidewalk but not beyond the extent of the storefronts. Ironically, the Bin and Bulldog would lose seating because those tables near the corners would disappear. The concrete extension would not start and end at least 10 ft. from the street corner. When you add these problems onto the new SAC, permitting, and dram shop insurance costs for the specific bars, staffing and security and noise restrictions, it is possible they will never use the sidewalks, or discontinue after a few years. This is assuming they are still even tenants.

At last Wednesday's public hearing, Chuck Repke said that most people supported this concrete extension in May of 2010.

As chair of the citizen committee that heard the proposal, I can tell you that at best it was fairly evenly split regarding approval. Chuck wasn't even hired by the building owners and was not present in the beginning. Any support early on was before the negatives were identified and before alternatives were developed. Since then all the organizations and committees who have addressed this issue have **not** supported or opposed a concrete extension.

There has never been any adequate time at any City Public hearing (Planning Commission, HPC or City Council) to hear all the concerns, no less alternatives for what most people think is a bad idea. Even these concerns are just a part of the problems identified. Please enter this into the formal record.

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