Crippen, Debbie (CI-StPaul)



From:

Diatta, YaYa (CI-StPaul)

Sent:

Monday, February 13, 2017 7:30 AM

To:

Westenhofer, Sean (CI-StPaul); Crippen, Debbie (CI-StPaul)

Cc:

Benner II, Jerome (CI-StPaul)

Subject:

FW: Linwood School variances

From: Todd Wichman [mailto:todd.wichman@gmail.com]

Sent: Sunday, February 12, 2017 1:34 PM

To: Diatta, YaYa (CI-StPaul) <yaya.diatta@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Subject: Linwood School variances

Attn: Sean Westenhofer and Yaya Diatta,

I am writing as a neighbor to register my vote **against** granting the variances. I agree with the issues cited by the SHA ZLU committee and see no reason why SPPS cannot move forward with a project that <u>does not require variances</u>. The building expansion not only creates an excess of impervious surface (against City zoning code) and requires a variance, so does the building height.

Specifically, these variances cannot move forward as it cannot be reasonably found that "The plight of the landowner is due to circumstances unique to the property not created by the landowner." Indeed the landowner has created their OWN plight by planning a project that requires variances and does NOT comply with the SHA Neighborhood Plan. The fact that the zoning district (R4) does not have criteria regarding lot coverages and building heights for a school use notwithstanding.

As an owner of a historic house built on a very sensitive limestone foundation, I am concerned also about the potential for additional structural cracking and stress resulting from added bus traffic on Osceola. I live on a block that is **cobblestone**, which <u>enhances</u> the vibration, cracking and structural issues. The SPPS proposal to reduce bus traffic by splitting traffic between Monroe and Linwood can only be regarded as a temporary solution, not regulated by the City for the addition of future traffic and impacts in the future.

I ask that the BZA find these variance requests to be a negative precedent setting example in regard to the historic building, site and neighborhood, request that the BZA deny them, and send the SPPS project at Linwood School back to the drawing boards to be resolved with a solution that is acceptable to all.

Please support the SHA District 16 Council in finding that this project, in its current form, does not benefit the neighborhood. While I support the modernization of SPPS properties to meet the needs of their students, please hold them accountable to the City's zoning requirements as written without variances.

Regards, Todd Wichman 870 Osceola

ordinances. alignment with either the Summit Hill comprehensive plan or the City of St. Paul comprehensive plan, and lastly, does not meet current city zoning believe the proposed expansion does not preserve our neighborhood's character, greatly reduces contiguous outdoor open space, is not in the building height to extend to 47 feet (zoning code allows for 30 feet) and a variance for lot coverage of 39.3% (zoning code allows for 35%). We major variances. The property owner is planning a major expansion of Linwood School, and with the current design, SPPS is seeking a variance for We, the undersigned, are opposed to the request by St Paul Public Schools (SPPS), the owner of 1023 Osceola Avenue, or its representative, for two

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