

Dear Mayor Coleman:

Over the last few months I attended several meetings of the Lowertown Ballpark Design and Construction Committee. The public was invited but, with exception of one occasion, not permitted any input.

While the Committee has come up with an attractive Ballpark design, it paid little attention to the impact of their plan on the lives of people in the neighborhood. Not only will the Ballpark eliminate already scarce public parking, but the designers make no provisions for more public parking for the anticipated 7000 Ballpark visitors. Furthermore, the current plan includes a costly destruction of a solidly built Gillette Building. This structure could provide valuable space for off-street parking, small businesses, recreational activities etc without infringing on the Ballpark's function. At no time did I hear any discussion by construction experts and business people about the potentials of the Gillette Building. It appears that there was little or no interest in expanding the City's tax basis instead of having the taxpayers fund the building's removal. This observation and opinion seemed to be shared by the more than 200 attendees of a Lowertown Community Meeting held on March 27- to which, I understand, you were invited- and which was attended by St. Paul Council Member Dave Thune.

I hope you, Mayor Coleman, will reassess this situation and request that this Committee review the plans with more input from the taxpaying public!

Yours, sincerely,

Peter P. Frohnert, M.D.

Downtown St. Paul Resident