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Subject: Agenda Item #11 -- 1109-1123 S. Park St.
Date: May 09, 2020 10:46:52 AM

Dear Plan Commission Members,

I am pleased to offer my full support for the proposed 3 - Story Mixed Use project at the Jade Garden restaurant location.

Six months ago in early November, the development team, Dave Diamond and Randy Christianson of Madison Regional Development Corp, along with architect Kevin Burow of Knothe & Bruce, met with me to share their vision for this project.

Immediately afterwards, I reached out to residents on the portion of Emerson St near S. Park, knowing that past efforts to develop this site had failed, due in part to lack of neighborhood support.

<https://isthmus.com/news/news/new-development-shades-solar-power-installments/>

I set up a meeting with the developers and nearby neighbors at Lakeside Cafe shortly thereafter. We followed up with a meeting with the Bay Creek Neighborhood Association in January, answering questions and addressing concerns. The neighborhood genuinely welcomes this project as a big improvement over what is there now, and appreciates that the scale of three stories as being much preferred to earlier efforts to build on this site.

The development team is to be credited with doing what we ask of developers when pursuing projects in sensitive areas. Randy, Dave and Kevin did not just do the minimums, i.e., merely informing the alder and the neighborhood association as to their intentions. They did not just check boxes. Rather, the team met openly with those could be impacted, responding to resident concerns, modifying their plans where possible in order to accommodate.

As stated in the Comp Plan, neighborhoods are the building blocks of our city. This development team gets that. It shows in the quality of the work and final product before you for consideration.

I firmly believe this project will provide lasting benefit to residents in my district and throughout the city.

It's my recommendation that you approve this project without reservation.

Kindly,

Tag

Tag Evers

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