

From: Babarfant@aol.com [<mailto:Babarfant@aol.com>]
Sent: Friday, April 06, 2012 10:56 AM
To: Murphy, Brad
Subject: Re: minutes of Plan Commission meeting March 19

Dear Mr. Murphy, Thank you so much.

As I suspected, Messr Klebba and Waugh, who are proposing to purchase the Collins House at 704 E Gorham Street in order to operate a Bed & Breakfast, are the only ones who registered and spoke in favor of this amendment to the zoning ordinance, with no one speaking in opposition.

At the March 14 meeting of the Parks Commission, which voted not to approve the Klebba / Waugh proposal to purchase the Collins House for this purpose, we learned that an amendment to the zoning ordinance had been introduced to the Common Council by Alders Clear and Rummell. No one imagined that it would come before the Plan Commission only five days later.

My daughter and son-in-law Cordelia and Mark Gallo, who live at 733 E Gorham, and I are also on the agenda of the Common Council meeting next Tuesday, April 10, with an alternate proposal to purchase the Collins House as our single-family owner-occupied residence, requiring no change in the zoning ordinance. On March 14, the Parks Commission voted 5-2 to approve our proposal.

Previously, before District 2 Alder Bridget Maniaci introduced our proposal as an "alternate," at its meeting on January 23, the Plan Commission voted 4-3 to approve the Klebba / Waugh proposal. On January 30, the Landmarks Commission failed to approve it. (The Landmarks vote was 3-3, with the chair indicating he would have voted against it but need not to do so for the motion to fail.) On March 8, the Tenney-Lapham Neighborhood Association Council, again with only the Klebba / Waugh proposal on its agenda, voted against approval.

I understand that the Plan Commission is not required to inform nearby residents that there is a proposed change to the general zoning ordinance. That is not the issue here. This "spot zoning" amendment, however, is strictly to benefit Messr Klebba and Waugh's proposed purchase of a landmark house in a residential block to the detriment of residents and another Bed & Breakfast establishment--the Livingston Inn in the landmark Leitch House, which opened for business last August--in the 700 block of East Gorham Street. Two residents of this block, in addition to my daughter and son-in-law and the Furlans who operate the Livingston Inn, have sent letters and / or registered to speak in favor of our proposal and /or in opposition to Klebba and Waugh's, including at the January 23d meeting of the Plan Commission.

Therefore, would it not have been crucial to the democratic process for elected and appointed officials who introduced this amendment benefiting their friends Messr Klebba and Waugh to inform those with reason to speak against its adoption that it was scheduled to be on the agenda? Obviously, no one except Messr Klebba and Waugh knew to attend the Plan Commission meeting on March 19, and neither they nor sponsors of the amendment had the ethics to inform anyone else.

If public comment is allowed before adoption of the minutes at the next meeting of the Plan Commission on Monday, April 9, I beg to have this message introduced and / or to address this issue in person.

Thanks very much for your kind attention and consideration.

Cordially, Barbara

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