

Dear Ms. Cleveland (cc; Sara Eskrich):

I am writing to let you know that, as a Bay Creek resident, I have some reservations about the proposed redevelopment of the Jade Garden site on 1109 S. Park Street. I have a two-year old at home and so regret that I have not been able to make any of the public meetings about this issue.

I am concerned about this development for these reasons. The first is its height, which seems unusually tall to me for a building that is meant to abut residential homes. Given that Park Street is considerably higher than those homes along Emerson Street, this actually seems comparable to erecting a building that is six stories high rather than five -- ensuring that the buildings truly dwarf the two-story residential homes just behind it. I do not own a home on Emerson Street but if I did, I'd be rightfully upset and disappointed at the prospect of such a tall building going in at that section of Park Street.

On a related note: When I drive down Willy St or Monroe St, which have seen their share of redevelopment in the past five years, I don't see apartment buildings of this stature. On Monroe Street in particular, the two-story buildings there (maybe some three-story buildings) blend well with the residential areas and maintain the residential flavor of that corridor. I am not anti-development at all, but I can't help but wonder why Park Street, Bay Creek, or the south side in general, can't get the same treatment as those streets, which retain a certain level of charm, are more walkable, and are especially conducive to small businesses? I really welcome the idea of more density in our neighborhood, particularly in the form of mixed-income housing, but I would be really sad to see Park Street begin to fill with large apartment buildings without forethought into how they will affect the adjoining streets and homes.

My second concern is with the entrance that is meant to be on Emerson Street. Again, I think of my Emerson Street neighbors, and cannot help but wonder how an entrance on that small residential street is going to alter the experience of living there? I hope that the commissions will take what's here now into serious consideration as they plan for what the neighborhoods is to be in the future.

Bay Creek is a no-fuss, laid-back kind of place, the kind of place where you can get away with untidy flower beds or a lawn littered with kid toys you never find the time to pick up. But its residents, and their ideas about acceptable redevelopment -- redevelopment that is in keeping with the size and flavor of this neighborhood -- definitely deserve to be heard.

Thank you very much for your time,

Krista Eastman

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