

December 7, 2011

Dear Mr. Martin and Members of the Urban Design Committee,

We have had the opportunity to read the correspondence of many of our neighbors in Grand View Commons to the UD Committee regarding the grocery store proposal. It is extremely concerning to us that as this proposal continues to move forward, our alder (Alder Cnare) has not recently approached our neighborhood as a group to discuss such a contentious issue with us. We don't believe that many of our neighbors would support such a store if it were to be built in their own backyard (literally!). The sad truth is that the further away one lives from the proposed building sight, the more likely one is to support such a store because they can simply drive to it and not have to live with the noise, pollution and safety hazards that come with a store of that size. Perhaps people are confused about the true size of the grocery store being proposed?

Committee members and neighbors in favor of this proposal, we ask you to honestly consider what you would do if you were promised a store roughly the size of Jenifer Street market and a library when you bought your home, and then found out that a store the size of Copps in Sun Prairie, or larger, would be built in your backyard, and instead of the library, you got a parking lot. This is not in our backyard, but it doesn't matter. When some of our neighbors are being asked to suffer at the expense of others' convenience, this not what we would consider building good community.

We were promised a 25,000 sq.ft. grocery store and a library that we could walk to. This is what we are asking you to hold Veridian accountable for. There is another parcel of land already zoned for a store of the size Veridian is proposing tonight on Sprecher Rd. and it should be built there. Please share our statement with the Committee at tonight's meeting.

Sincerely,

Tara White and Armando Hernandez
637 Copernicus Way
Madison

UDC
Submitted Comments

12/7/11

#24689