

From: Carrie Montgomery [mailto:camontgomery@charter.net]
Sent: Sunday, February 05, 2012 2:09 PM
To: Martin, Al
Subject: Grandview Commons Proposed Grocery Store

Dear Mr. Martn

I'm writing in opposition to the proposed changes in the Grandview Commons area to include relaxing restrictions to allow a larger grocery store. I attended the neighborhood/city meeting last Wednesday (Jan 13). It became clear to me that it was more important to Veridian to make a sale than it is to keep the general aesthetics of the neighborhood. While they argued they were going out of their way to make the store pedestrian friendly and easy to walk to, the fact that its size (approximately 60, 00 square feet) and number of parking of stalls (300; to be shared by other businesses) invites people to drive in and shop. Something the size of Capital Foods downtown or a shop where I worked when in college that was (maybe still is) on East Mifflin called the Mini-Mart would be more pedestrian friendly. But they insist they need a larger store to attract shoppers. To me that's contrary to what was envisioned for that neighborhood. Who is going to walk to the grocery store and carry five bags of groceries?

Additionally, their comment that people in that neighborhood have to travel over 1.5 miles to the nearest grocery store to get food made me smile. They made it sound like such a hardship. We've lost one grocery store in our area; Cub Foods. I think Hy-Vee's presence was Cub's demise. I certainly saw a reduced number of shoppers at Cub's once Hy-Vee opened. If Roundy's wants to a store in our neighborhood they should look at the Cub's building.

Within a short drive there is Woodman's, Sentry, Hy-Vee and Piggly Wiggly in Cottage Grove. That's enough. Piggly Wiggly is on a large commercial lot; so are Woodman's and Hy-Vee. Sentry, too, off Acewood and Cottage Grove and none are right in nthe middle of an existing neighborhood.

This is not about a 'Not in my backyard' issue. It's about the size they're proposing and what it will do to Grandview Commons and the surrounding neighborhoods.

Thank you,

Robert Montgomery
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