From: Nicholas Davies
To: All Alders
Subject: RE: 84994 - Starkweather Plat
Date: Tuesday, October 8, 2024 5:33:32 PM

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Dear alders,

I initially registered to speak on this item, both at Plan Commission and at Common Council, but after Planning Staff explained last night where we are in the process, and what the acceptance criteria of this agenda item are, I don't see a point in speaking on this item tonight, and it will be back on the Consent Agenda.

Just wanted to give you this background, in case it causes any confusion at your meeting.

Whenever there is eventually a decision to be made, about what type of connection should be built between Fair Oaks and the Starkweather Plat, I (together with others here in Eastmorland) look forward to making the case for a bike/ped connection, and the case against a high-volume vehicular cut-through.

We've been showing up to talk about this every step of the way, and I know some folks are feeling the frustration that, every time we show up, we're told this isn't the time to reconsider the decision about this street connection. But if we don't keep showing up, this street connection may wind up being built purely on autopilot, based on a decision that, at that point, will likely be old enough to drive.

However, I understand that the agenda item before you tonight is only about judging whether the final plat is consistent with the preliminary plat. It is, and I wouldn't want my input to hold up this development.

I would've liked to see what Stonehouse would do with the site, *without* the constraint of having to include a street connection to Fair Oaks. Could the site have supported more housing? More commercial space? More park features? Unfortunately we've already missed the opportunity to find that out, and now we probably never will.

And while a through-street connection would be very detrimental to this new neighborhood, I see real value in a non-vehicular connection. It would be the missing link in a low-stress east-west route that is already taking shape in real time, from the bridge at Hermina St, to the Autumn Ridge Path, and the connection across Stoughton Rd as recently added in the North East Area Plan.

So perhaps it makes sense to keep the connection to Fair Oaks in the Starkweather Plat, so long as the type of connection there isn't yet set in stone. But gosh, there has got to eventually be a right time to figure that out.

Thank you,

Nick Davies
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