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From: Ellingson, Susan
Sent: Saturday, January 14, 2012 7:56 AM
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Subject: 801 S Park St

To the Urban Design Commission:

I oppose the "squawk box" associated with the drive-up window for the proposed development at 801 S Park St. We have had two neighborhood meetings about this development. In both cases, the neighbors were strongly opposed to the speaker and had concerns about regular use of the very narrow public alley.

Otherwise, the proposal is good. It's an attractive building. It's on a vacant site that badly needs a new development. Discussions with the developers have given me a positive impression of the Dunkin' Donuts franchisee, who will provide benefits for his employees.

I, and others, have suggested putting the speaker at the south end of the site, where it would aim toward Park St and away from the neighbors. This could be achieved either by flipping the building to the other end of the lot or by dissociating the menu board and speaker from the building. Despite our requests, the developers have not presented this option. They say that it would reduce the amount of parking too much. They also hope to acquire additional property to the south of the site someday. Although they have no agreements with any of those owners, they feel that the parking lot in its current location would fit better with that hoped-for development.

This speaker is on a business that will operate *every day*. It's a grating sound that, even if quieter, is far more annoying than the sound of traffic. Sound is very disruptive; I get many complaints about noise from constituents. And it's hard to control -- sound barriers are seldom effective. A speaker just 70' away is an unreasonable intrusion on the lives of people who live there. If a drive-through is built here, it will be there forever.

Neighbors are also concerned that the "escape lane" next to the drive-through will cause customers to use the tiny alley regularly, including to get to parking on West Shore Dr.

I urge you to ask the developers to explore other site designs that will aim this speaker away from the neighborhood, and to deny the current layout.

Sincerely,

Sue Ellingson

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Sue Ellingson, Alder

City of Madison, District 13
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