

For Urban Design Commission which meets January 28: concerns I sent to the recent Steering Committee meeting I could not attend. The accompanying references are attached. Some questions were answered.

Questions for AC/Pahl Hotel Steering Committee Meeting January 21, 2015

This will be emailed to relevant others

Guest Parking

- What are the options for guest parking?
- Does it remain that all valet parking will be included in the hotel rate?
- Will valet parking still include Capitol North Ramp if necessary? If not will guests be responsible for finding their own? Will unfamiliar drivers be furnished with detailed information about the multiple and confusing ramp entrances and pedestrian exits?
- What is the path of the guest cars from the street to the valet stand?

Drop-off Area (see plans)

- How is the new drop off design different from the old regarding the driving approaches from any direction which still share a bicycle lane? Cars pulling into and out of the area and opening doors into the street still appear to present hazardous situations. The city has suggested city street signs to alert drivers to the bike lane — they will need to be especially visible and emphatic. But in general the often-congested Webster Street traffic is actually not a fixable problem as concerns the hotel even with reduced height and guest capacity.

Building Height

- Why does the new plan show no substantial reduction in building height and cast shadows as required by every advisory or regulating body that has studied and spoken to this critical issue?

If the AC organization intends to have educated collaboration with heritage tourism and the Lamp House it surely recognizes the importance of preserving the historic character of the interior space of the block, the dedicated character of the entire block, and the Lamp House design and functional intentions. These can only be satisfied, and still not optimally, by following the height limitations. If the hotel capitalizes on its good fortune to be an intimate neighbor of a landmark property it can elevate its own stature and shape an even greater vision by respecting the Lamp House with a truly appropriate hotel design.

Thank you,
Anne Stoelting

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