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From: Linda Harkness <linharkness@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2019 9:45 AM
To: Plancom; Steve Szafran
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Shoreline Place
Attachments: Letter to Shoreline Planning Commission.docx

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Dear Commissioners:

My family has lived in the Westminster Triangle neighborhood of Shoreline for well over 40 years and, like my neighbors, we have a great interest in what happens in our community.

Developments like the Interurban Trail and new bike lanes have been great enhancements to the quality of life here, so I looked forward to further improvements in the redevelopment of the shopping center around Central Market and Sears. My understanding was that it would provide a city center, something with a soul that would make Shoreline a better place to live, a point of pride, a destination.

Therefore, I have studied the document outlining recent changes to the Shoreline Commons renewal plan and would like you to read my comments and concerns, which are attached to this email. Please take the time to read them and respond.

Kind regards,
Linda Harkness

May 26, 2019

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing you to urge you to rethink the current redevelopment plan for Shoreline Place. The current plan is antithetical to all that we know about progress in the direction of a livable community.

I have been studying the "Site Plan and Vicinity Map" for Shoreline Place and cannot reconcile it with the original vision for a "renewed, vibrant hub of commercial and community activity ...a key place of gathering, community, and celebration." My understanding was that Shoreline Place was to be a destination, a refuge from the hustle and bustle of Aurora, a place that might even attract people who would want to live in the area. I thought that the original redesign of such a large area in the heart of Shoreline was an opportunity to create a model of livability in an urban environment, something we could all be proud of. Instead, it looks to be an area of massive apartment buildings with some commercial spaces below.

I recognize the need for housing in King County and was resigned to the density included in the old plan, but this new plan is far different. The preponderance of private apartment buildings is out of balance with that of public spaces. Shoreline Place will no longer be a destination, a hub, or an enhancement to life in Shoreline. It will be more like a warehouse of humanity.

Shoreline has a need far greater than the need for apartment complexes. Shoreline needs a center with open spaces, walkable areas, gathering places, charm, culture, beauty, and, yes, buskers.

Here is a reminder of the former vision, created after forums filled with community input, which seemed to acknowledge some of this need: "Imagine an open, green plaza in the center of Shoreline, filled with sunbathing and studying students, young families watching their children run and play, an elderly couple enjoying a Central Market pic-nic [sic], dogs wagging their tails, actors practicing their lines, and the sound of college-age buskers singing with an occasional clink as coins fall into a hat." In the plan there was a large green plaza, an outdoor stage, and perhaps even a water feature.

Well, what happened to that vision? In the current site plan, where is the green plaza, the outdoor concert stage, the water feature, or a spot for night life and "good food"? This new plan takes away enticing public places on a human scale where children can indeed run and play, and replaces them with monolithic apartments of numbing similarity surrounded by private drives. In this plan public space is way outbalanced by private development.

Shoreline, in order to counter its preponderance of strip malls, car dealerships, pawn shops, and megalithic apartment complexes, is in dire need of a center, some place that is an

attractive destination, a walkable hub, a place that speaks of human values. I strongly feel that the former plan did this to a degree, especially since it supported the arts with an outdoor stage.

I have spoken to many of my neighbors in the Westminster Triangle who agree with me. Please reject this current plan and come up with one that keeps your contract with your constituents by maintaining the neighborhood fabric and making our community more, not less, livable.

Sincerely,

Linda Harkness

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