

From:

Sent: Monday, July 11, 2016 11:12 AM

To: Planning

Subject: farmers market building debbie marx

Debbie Marx, who is a vendor at the market, does not have email, so she asked me to send this letter to you:

My name is Debbie Marx.

I have been a vendor at the Ann Arbor Farmer's Market for 24 years. I attend the market all through the winter, I have for many years.

This is another plea to Parks and Recreation. Rather than build a \$800,000 building, spend less than half that amount on improving the existing market and parking lot. Humble improvements, repairs, structural improvements in places, clear acrylic sides that pull down, a heat source.

The Ann Arbor Farmers Market is in the Historical District. The market has been there for nearly 100 years. Keep the outdoor tradition with a few improvements for a more comfortable market experience year round.

The existing winter market takes up most of the "main aisle", which has more space than a building could ever have. Start improving and winterizing this area. Now the market has 65 good sized protected stalls and there is room for growth. As attendance increases in the cold months, the remaining 79 stalls can be improved. You would not have 144 updated stalls.

Not one stall is sacrificed! Not one parking spot is eliminated!

The vacant lot needs to be open and versatile. It is used for:

-Vendor overflow in the harvest months

-Parking overflow all year

-Snow storage, which is important for clearing the parking lot in the winter!

A building is too limiting and expensive! I don't blame Parks and Rec. for wanting a venue building to rent. Build it somewhere else, on your thousands of acres. The market has only two acres. Let's focus on the needs of the market.

The stall rent was increased by 40% last year alone for Ann Arbor Market vendors. We, as vendors, customers, and neighbors deserve more than a decaying structure and a hazardous parking lot!

To put a million dollar event building in the center of a dilapidated, outdated market is a slap in the face to every veteran vendor that has paid and worked for decades to build seniority and

make the Ann Arbor Farmers Market what it is.

- It's producer only [meaning each vendor produces, grows, bakes, makes their own product]
- It's been in the same location for almost 100 years, and has year round hours.
- It is also accessible by foot or bicycle.
- New upscale housing is going in every day in this neighborhood [more foot traffic]

Stalls at the Ann Arbor Farmers Market are golden. Parking is platinum [double platinum]. Don't eliminate any of these.

The market has a chance to improve, and keep its historical heritage and tradition.

Parks and Rec. do the right thing! Build your event building elsewhere, and invest in the necessary improvements to the existing market. Allow the Farmers Market to provide the community with fresh local produce and products year round in comfort. And let's all focus on making this beloved Historical Ann Arbor Farmers Market a beautiful venue that the community and entire city can be very proud of.

Thank you,
Debbie Marx