

Sent: Monday, July 11, 2016 11:11 AM
To: Planning
Subject: Farmer's market building

Thank you for your time and consideration.

I'm writing to give my perspective on the new building at the farmer's market. I've been a full time vendor at the market since 1997.

1. Vendors have always wanted to have improvements to winterize the market. When the survey came around asking questions only about January, February, and March, I was surprised.

November and December are the busiest shopping times of the year in the United States, people are shopping for holiday decorations, dinners, gifts, etc. We have lots of vendors set up in November and December and the potential to have lots of shoppers in November and December. If you come to market in December and then go into the Kerrytown building or any indoor store, you can see the volume of shoppers we are missing out on. Come to market in June and you'll see that we do attract that volume when it's not freezing out.

The building has far fewer stalls than we have vendors, and the stalls in the building will be too small for many vendors to fit into. It will only benefit a few.

Instead of spending our resources to build a small building to benefit a small amount of vendors during the slowest time of the year, we should make improvements that will benefit all of our vendors and all of our shoppers during a potentially very busy shopping season.

Make winterizing and weatherizing improvements over the whole market instead, to benefit everyone, during the busiest times.

We have inclement weather throughout the year, make market-wide improvements that can be used by everyone, in cold, wet, or windy weather year round, especially during the holiday shopping season.

Attach rain- and wind- proof sides for the whole market, as other markets have, and provide some electric heaters in the aisles in cold weather- we already have a solar roof to provide the electricity. If the roof can't stand up to the wind with the sides down, improve the roof, or figure out what needs to be done to make something work. This will help on stormy days during the whole year. Right now, when it rains during the summer, often everybody packs up and goes home in the middle of the market day.

Fix the gutters. They are smashed in many places. There is intense rainfall in some stalls when it rains - the whole roof pours out of the smashed parts of the gutters. They also get full of debris during certain times of year and dramatically overflow.

2. Parking. There's not enough. The building will eliminate even more. It's a problem. One parking spot is used by multiple people during each day. Eliminating 6 spots, might eliminate parking for 30 or 60 customers over the whole day.

3. It is said that the market fees will not increase because of this. The market fees just had a drastic increase. Sure, they won't increase in the future, because the increase already happened. Please use our increase to benefit all vendors with market-wide improvements that will be useful year round.

Thank you again for your time and consideration,

Ann Sheppard

PS A council member responded that market vendors seem divided over the building.

I think people are divided over the building, but I think almost everyone would be happy to extend the roof instead, fix the gutters, and make some winterizing improvements to the entire market that everyone could use during the actually busy holiday season Nov-Dec when the market is full of freezing vendors and could have many more customers if they were comfortable instead of freezing.

The 'sand lot' space is used every day in the summer, the building will not be a benefit in the summer. I don't think vendors are going to be eager to go into a building on the beautiful days [there are a lot of beautiful days]. And as someone else mentioned, where will they put the snow in the winter, the snow that now goes in the sand lot, in huge mountains?

I'm sure there are a few people who think the building will be wonderful - vendors with small physical amounts of product or with enough employees to man 2 booths outside and 1 inside. But is it fair to spend a huge amount of money paid for by all of us, with our 40% fee increase that just went through last year, to benefit just a few vendors?

And how will the people who don't fit in the building feel in December? There's already feelings of bitterness in the market between the haves and have nots - the people who get the best spots, the best parking, etc. How will it feel to those of us [most of us] who can't get or fit into the building in November and December, while the privileged few are happy, dry, warm, comfortable, and busy with customers? Probably even worse than the [very few] people outside the roof on a rainy summer day now. Vendor inequality will be increased, not addressed, by a small building. A much better solution would be to simply extend the current roof, continue it out over the sand lot, while retaining all current parking spots. Then the snow could still be piled there in winter also. And inequality will be solved, not increased.