

From: Jeffrey Post [<mailto:jlutherpost@gmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, October 05, 2011 12:54 PM
To: Planning
Subject: The Varsity approval

A2 Planning Commission,

Very unfortunate approval last night. The lack of imagination and vision by so many involved in downtown development is, frankly, a little startling to me. It seems it won't be long before these "vanilla" highrises will cast long, dark shadows over the gems of architecture we treasure in this city and make it the visual presence it is. Somewhere lost in the scape-plan will be the Bell Towers, Clements Library, Rackhams and Cooks so that our city's density plan could recognize the need that students or others have to live in highrises. This one size fits all approach lacks so much vision but perhaps the Planning Commission hasn't talked to enough student leaders to see that not everyone is a highrise lover! With a world class architecture school right here, I am sure there are resources to educate your team on other alternatives.

Needless to say, the traffic "clot" that these present will make us long time residents even less interested in popping downtown for a drink or dinner simply from congestion and lack of parking. Took me 50 minutes to find parking including navigating the Maynard structure just to go to Red Hawk.

Lastly, what I never seem to hear about from any City Place, Zaragon, The Varsity or others or from the City Planning group either, is what they are doing **positively** to diminish the negative "green" impact and greenhouse gases they will produce as part of the largest contributor (the building industry) to this problem in the world. Never seem to hear any of these developers talking about that!! Good luck Mary Sue Coleman, with your UM Green plan for the future just rolled out because these out of town developers building impact will offset much of the good you had laid out to do in the next several years.

Sorry, as a downtown property owner and long time landlord to student housing solutions, I just had to share my disappointment.

Jeffrey Post

--

Jeffrey Post
TheZoom Collective
business by design

Curb Service - Outdoor YardStaging
PeaPod Productions
Post Realty
Prudential Snyder and Company
Sustainnovate
Zagnoli Trading Company

1341 Glendaloch Circle
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
734.476.8326 direct