

From: Barbara Lucas
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 11:09 AM
To: Planning <Planning@a2gov.org>
Subject: Lower Town parcel

Dear Planning Commission,

I produce a monthly show that airs on WEMU public radio called "The Green Room" (you can listen to past shows at www.wemu.org/programs/green-room). Our latest segment looks at different perspectives regarding urban density, utilizing Morningside's Lower Town proposal and the Platt Road parcel as stepping stones to explore the concepts.

I recently received feedback that the impression was left by this show that neighbors are not happy about the Lower Town development. True, at Morningside's public meeting held in February, some members of the audience expressed concerns regarding their proposal. But overall there seemed to be a collective sigh of relief that the site is being developed after being left vacant for so long. That sentiment was less articulated.

This segment of the Green Room radio show explores various perspectives, giving equal weight to both pro and con views. This may have inadvertently left the impression that feelings against density in Lower Town are more common than they really are.

I have no way to definitively measure public opinion, and that wasn't the goal of the show. But I can share my subjective impression, as a citizen: I live about a half mile from Morningside's Lower Town parcel and most of the neighbors I've talked to are looking forward to a more vibrant Lower Town. While some folks are sensitive to height, there are many who are happy to see workforce housing built within walking and biking distance of Ann Arbor's major employers. I don't know if you are hearing from the latter, so I thought I'd drop you a line to make sure.

Sincerely,

Barbara Lucas, 1211 Wright St.