

**Subject:** Basic requirement of 21st century apartments

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**From:** Sophie Grillet

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 10, 2024 10:12 AM

**To:** Planning <[Planning@a2gov.org](mailto:Planning@a2gov.org)>

**Cc:** Lisa Disch

**Subject:** Re: Basic requirement of 21st century apartments

Dear Planning Commission,

I hope some of you might take this opportunity **today**: (apologies, I only just heard about it)

inaugural monthly UWN Educational Webinar Series. Beginning with the foundations of who we are, what we do, why we are important and why we need you to join us!

“We Are The Urban Wood Network® Inc. - Navigating our Origins and Charting a Sustainable, Resilient, and Enduring Environmental Response Through Urban Wood Utilization”

Register Here

<https://lnkd.in/gUTgRxUW>

Urban Wood Network (UWN), a leading force in the urban wood industry, emerged in response to environmental challenges and fragmented efforts, uniting a diverse range of stakeholders. The UWN mission encompasses promoting sustainable urban and community forest management, fostering collaboration, and standardizing urban wood utilization practices. Within this webinar, you'll explore UWN's Code of Ethics, delve into UWN history, experiences, and stories, learn about member partnerships, access valuable education resources, connect through networking opportunities, discover economic possibilities, and embrace UWN's core motto: "Trees First, Wood Next™." UWN isn't just about resources and networking; it's about making a substantial environmental impact while creating economic opportunities and maintaining ethical standards. Supporting the UWN brand means endorsing established quality standards and paving the way for superior urban forest products. Together, we can collectively make a positive impact on our world.

Speakers:

Jessica Simons, Director of the original Urban Wood Project and now the VP for Conservation Stewardship at the Kalamazoo Nature Center

Rick Siewert, Director of Manufacturing at Wood From The Hood

Is this webinar for you?

This webinar is intended for a diverse audience, including urban forestry professionals, woodworkers, environmental organizations, **government agencies**, educational institutions, nonprofits, businesses in the urban wood industry, **advocates for ethical and sustainable practices**, environmental activists, and the general public.

<https://sophieartist.com>

On Tue, Jan 9, 2024 at 2:21 PM Sophie Grillet wrote:

Dear Planning Commission,

I was just looking at the artist's rendering of the proposed new development at 228 Packard and E Madison. Some of the recent developments in the neighborhood look pretty attractive. The block that is proposed, though, doesn't show any balconies.

Building new residential developments without the hugely popular, attractive, healthy and useful inclusion of balconies is unheard of in many parts of the world. They immediately signal that the lives of the residents are considered, rather than just a "how-many-can-we-squish-in-here" mentality. They make the building look more open to the neighborhood, without any reduction in security, and in turn make the residents feel more like part of the neighborhood.

I sincerely hope that you will consider urgently updating your planning regulations to require balconies for urban developments of this kind, *without excluding accommodation intended for students or nurses* (who are not second class citizens).

Additionally, mature trees should be independently assessed for retention, and in certain cases relocation, including taking into account our increasingly threatened urban wildlife - birds, insects and other species, rather than lazily destroying them all to replace with uniform and suboptimal saplings.

Thanks for your consideration.  
Yours sincerely,

Sophie Grillet

[SophieArtist.com](https://sophieartist.com)