

## Kowalski, Matthew

---

**From:** Bob Parnes [bob@bparnes.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 04, 2015 11:58 AM  
**To:** Kowalski, Matthew  
**Subject:** 2250 Ann Arbor Saline Road Project

Mr. Kowalski, please convey this to the Ann Arbor Planning Commission for their consideration at their upcoming meeting on September 9.

At the July 22 meeting of the Planning Commission those people who spoke during the public commentary period for the proposed 2250 Ann Arbor Saline Road Condominium Development were encouraged to put their name and email address onto a sign-up sheet. We were told that we would be informed by the Commission by email about the next Planning Commission meeting. As of the time I am sending this email to you I have not received any such notification from the Planning Commission. I am quite upset that a meeting on this controversial proposal was scheduled on such short notice to the public on a date just two days after a major holiday weekend. The deadline to provide a written response is at noon September 4. This gives the very definite appearance that the meeting was scheduled in such a way as to attempt to minimize the amount of participation by the public who, as you know are in near unanimity in the opposition to the site plan as it currently exists.

I was fortunate enough to learn about the upcoming meeting from a neighbor, but due to time constraints I have not been able to compose the response to the commission that I would have had there been a more timely notification and a more considerate date for the meeting. Here are some brief remarks that I have been able to quickly jot down before the noon deadline today.

First let me state that I am still in opposition to the site plan for all the reasons (and much more) that I stated in my written remarks to the Commission prior to the previous two meetings. The now rebranded 20 foot wide gated emergency access sidewalk as currently proposed is designed to provide a means of access to the project for motorized vehicles. The claim by the developer is that the access will be restricted by a locked gate just to those vehicles that are considered emergency responders, but those emergency responders will require the participation of a fire department vehicle to unlock the gate. It does not take much imagination to see that once an entryway for motorized vehicles is built from Lambeth, there will be significant pressure by the occupants of the development to remove the gate and let any vehicle use the "sidewalk" as a means of entry and exit. Should the gate be removed then there would be a significant increase in traffic in the Landsdowne neighborhood and the would result in a significant decrease in safety and tranquility to the neighborhood.

The fire department marshal has said a second entry/egress for emergency vehicles would be desirable for those very rare times when the main entrance off Ann Arbor Saline Road is inaccessible. But no one has said that it is necessary, and given the near unanimous opposition to it by everyone in the neighborhoods adjacent to the proposed 20' wide sidewalk, I strongly urge that it be removed from the site plan before.

I also feel a need to express my concern about the magnitude of the plan. When talking with a neighbor about its size I did not have good sense of how to convey it until it struck me that I could compare it to something nearby that all of us are familiar with. What I came up with is the insight that the condo building itself is too large to be constructed on the playing field of Michigan Stadium, and it is almost as high is the new facade of the stadium that extends north from Stadium Blvd. In addition, the retaining pond as currently specified in the site plan could not be built within the confines of the playing field of Michigan Stadium. This is an enormous project that is so out of scale to fit into the neighborhoods surrounding it.

Bob Parnes  
2067 Ascot Rd.

