

From: **James Chaffers** Date: Tue, Apr 7, 2015 at 5:10 PM

Subject: 'South Pond . . .

To: Wendy Woods <wwoods@umich.edu>

Wendy.

Not sure if your UM address is the appropriate destination for my note, that follows.

Assuming so, I am hoping some personal thoughts of mine come to your attention before this evening's (April 7) Planning Commission meeting.

SOUTH POND VILLAGE

My shared thoughts take full note of the Planning Staff's recommendation (to the Commission) that the 'South Pond Village Site Plan' be "approved," as presently proposed.

I start here, knowing and appreciating the amount of effort required to 'review' any site plan having the developmental breadth and complexity as (is) contained in the South Pond Village Proposal. Specifically, I am appreciative of the due diligence and staff guidance provided by Matt Kowalski. No doubt, the staff's latest study devoted significant attention to three major areas of Commission concern -- traffic, site access, and impact on Chalmers Road.

My concern is that the staff report, as presently drafted, makes no mention of protecting our prevailing common wealth; i.e., the understanding, that all local/state/federal requirements are subordinate to the Commission's primary public charge . . . an over-arching obligation to ensure that its ongoing collective judgments speak directly to the question, "What is the highest and best use of this land?" Suggesting that the proposed South Pond Village Development would limit the disturbance of natural features to the minimum necessary to allow a reasonable use of the land; would not cause a public or private nuisance; and would not have a detrimental effect on public health, safety, or welfare, clearly begs the question.

SOUTH GEDDES POND ART PARK

A 'citizen-advocates' petition will be presented tonight, offering an alternative approach to this unique piece of Ann Arbor's commonwealth. I am hopeful that the Commission will give an attuned ear . . . and think, particularly, about the opportunity offered for an exercising of truly visionary leadership.

UM 'MASTER OF FINE ARTS' FACULTY THESIS COMMITTEE

Having a prior obligation, I will not be present physically, but will be fully present in spirit with the South Geddes Pond Art Park citizen-advocates as they share their vision for an exciting new concept for Ann Arbor Parks.

Very best,
jim

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