

From: Judy Shapiro
Sent: Wednesday, August 06, 2014 8:14 AM
To: Planning
Subject: Comments on Platt Road East Rezoning and Site Plan

Dear Ann Arbor Planning Commission:

I am writing to you regarding agenda item 10-a for the meeting of August 6, 2014. This agenda item is the Platt Road East Rezoning and Site Plan petition by the Ann Arbor Housing Commission. I request that the Ann Arbor Housing Commission deny this petition, or at least postpone action on it until the reactions of local residents can be more accurately gauged.

There is in fact substantial opposition among local residents to the proposed housing development and rezoning. I attended both of the Citizen's Participation Meetings regarding this plan, which were held at the Mallet's Creek Library in February 2014 and on July 28, 2014. The meeting in February was characterized by repeated angry outbursts against the plan by local residents. ("Leave us alone!" was one such comment.) Yet, none of this intense opposition from the February meeting is mentioned in "Section 4: Citizen Concerns and Comments" of the report prepared for this Planning Commission vote.

The report on the July 28, 2014 meeting (the file entitled "Citizen Participation Mtg 7-28-14.pdf") says the July meeting included citizens' comments both for and against the proposed housing. While technically true, this description omits something very important. Most of the comments in favor of the proposed housing seemed to come from people who lived far outside 1000 feet of the proposed site, whereas the residents near the site were mostly opposed to the new housing. (There was one resident from Colonial Square who supported the project.) In fact, reading the list of attendees the July 28, 2014 meeting, it appears most people in the audience lived further than 1000 feet from the proposed project.

According to the postcard I received, a main purpose of the July 28, 2014 meeting was "to solicit input from neighborhood residents." However, after the time devoted to presentations by the Housing Commission, the project's developers, and a representative of the Community Action Network, and to comments by Ann Arborites from other neighborhoods, not much of the meeting was comprised of input from actual neighborhood residents.

One of my neighbors told me that she didn't need to attend this meeting of the Planning Commission because she had attended both Citizen Participation meetings and had stated her opposition there. From what I can tell, her opposition has not in fact been fully conveyed to the Planning Commission.

Given the above factors, I believe the requirement for input from local residents has not been met. Therefore, I ask that the Planning Commission either deny the petitioner's request for rezoning, or postpone the request until more input from local residents can be obtained.

Sincerely,

Judy Shapiro
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