

Craig, Sondra

From: Joella Striebel <joellastriebel@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 4, 2022 2:36 PM
To: Richmond, Andrea; Janssen, Barb; Kahlow, Chris; Woodard, Chris; Hameister, Jenasea; Trost, Jennifer; Mindel, Mackenzie; Neumeister, Scott; Reynolds, Mitch; Odegaard, Jason; ZZ City Clerk External
Subject: J&A 22-1140

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Good afternoon members of the Judiciary & Administration Committee, Mayor Reynolds, and Mr. Odegaard,

My apologies for the tardiness of this inquiry, I had hoped to have more time to research this issue and speak to several of you directly about the questions I have related to the Forest Hills property and this legislation.

As you know, there is a highly contentious referendum on the ballot this November that seeks to build a consolidated high school on the far South end of town on the Trane site. By my assessment and that of others whose counsel I trust, this referendum is highly likely to fail. I myself plan to vote against it at this time, as I cannot in good conscious vote for something that will inequitably disadvantage my Northside neighborhood for generations to come.

The Forest Hills site has come up as a site that would be more centrally located, more equitable to both the North and South side, and a site that the school district itself would prefer over the proposed Trane location.

I am writing today to inquire whether a 60 day referral of this legislation might provide an opportunity to explore whether the City, in the best interests of this community for generations to come, might explore the possibility of selling this site to the School District if indeed the referendum fails. A 60 day referral would allow for the referendum outcome to be known, and may provide an opportunity to explore whether such a sale is feasible or possible.

I understand that there are deed restrictions on portions of the property that were donated that may preclude the placement of a high school on those portions. It is also my understanding that the portion of the property occupied by the golf course and clubhouse and owned by the city are not subject to these deed restrictions.

I humbly submit my perspective that a new consolidated high school *in a centralized location* is a far greater need in and benefit to our community as a whole than a golf course and clubhouse. Everyone in our community benefits from a well educated public, while only a select few benefit from a golf course. The use of this property for a school rather than a golf course would additionally be a huge win for our climate goals as a community.

Please consider delaying this legislation until after the referendum outcome is known, and after exploring every possible avenue to make this property available to the school district pending a future referendum.

I welcome your feedback and perspectives, if this is considered an impossibility, as I admitted, I have not had the opportunity to look as deeply into this as I would have liked.

Thank you as always for your service to our community,

Joella Striebel