

Dinkel, Jenna

From: Mindel, Mackenzie
Sent: Thursday, June 22, 2023 5:50 PM
To: Dinkel, Jenna
Subject: Fwd: Regarding meeting tonight on Lincoln School Historical Preservation

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Mackenzie Mindel, MA SISL
District 8 Council Member
Chair, Climate Action Plan Steering Committee
Chair, Heritage Preservation Commission

From: Chad STAEHLY <c.staehly@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, June 22, 2023 4:59:19 PM
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Subject: Regarding meeting tonight on Lincoln School Historical Preservation

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Hello City Council People,

We are late in sending this email as I thought I would be able to attend the meeting tonight but alas we are being pulled in a million directions between running businesses and getting two young boys to their respective Summer sports commitments. We are hoping you will get this message before tonight's meeting.

My wife, Shelly Staehly, and I live across the street from Lincoln Middle School. We have offered our input in other forums as well regarding the redevelopment of this property. We are asking that the council strongly consider foregoing and voting against the historical designation and preservation of the original building. The future of this property in our opinion is so important to the revitalization of the Washburn Neighborhood and feel very strongly that this historical designation would handcuff potential developers. Also, if you are familiar with the 2040 Downtown Vision master plan that was developed recently, you will have noticed there was a plan to redevelop an entire block in Washburn Neighborhood with single family housing. We need more families in this neighborhood, downtown and the city in general. We continue to lose young families to the outlying cities of Onalaska, Holmen and West Salem among others. We are in the middle of closing down schools due to declining enrollment.

When we built our home here we were told by the city and others that there was an effort to revitalize this neighborhood and encourage more families to move here and live here within the city limits and more specifically this neighborhood. We need to support these efforts to rebuild.

Providing some single family housing will develop more stakeholders in the neighborhood and help revitalization efforts that are underway. There's already a two phase apartment complex plan in the works as you know for 7th and Cass. We already have a ton of other apartment buildings and most homes in the neighborhood are subdivided into apartments and rented out. We need more ownership in the neighborhood if we want to see the true change the city has been talking about. There is a lot of dense housing in this neighborhood already. Please consider voting no on this petition to allow developers a chance to envision something outside of the building. This will be good for the city and the neighborhood. What happens if no one wants to take on renovating this 100 plus year old building that we were told was in such disrepair that the school could not afford to renovate? That building will sit there and not do anything for the neighborhood when potential development could create a whole new tax base for the city.

Thank you for consideration on your vote.

Chad and Shelly Staehly



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