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Cc: [Dave DeGrandpre](#); [Mayor Staff](#); [Colin Woodrow](#); [Neighborhood Council - Grant Creek](#)
Subject: Disappointment
Date: Thursday, September 10, 2020 1:17:54 PM

Dear Councilor:

While the Grant Creek Neighborhood Council has not been allowed to vote to support or oppose the proposed rezoning at 2920 Expo Parkway, it's important that city councilors understand that the Grant Creek neighbors have used every available public forum to express their widespread support for the existing zoning and their widespread opposition to the proposed rezoning.

On Feb. 25, the leadership team met with developer Ken Ault and his representatives. After learning of Ault's proposal for rezoning that would allow up to 1,195 dwelling units in four-story apartments, the leadership team scheduled a general meeting for March 12 at the Best Western Grant Creek Inn.

That 7 p.m. meeting, which would have been moderated by Missoula's Community Dispute Resolution Center, was cancelled at 4 p.m. by Mayor John Engel based on limitations on public meetings in light of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Normally, such a meeting would have ended with a motion that the neighborhood council support or oppose the proposed rezoning. That vote would have been an indication of neighborhood sentiment.

A virtual meeting of the Grant Creek Neighborhood Council's leadership team was held on July 15. Only leadership team members and developer Ken Ault's team could be viewed on screen. Members of the public could watch the meeting and ask questions. The leadership team scheduled a general meeting that was held virtually August 18. The meeting was moderated by Colin Woodrow, the new Neighborhood Coordinator. Again, only presenters could be viewed, but others could watch the meeting and ask questions. At the high point, the meeting had 59 participants. Had the March 12 in-person meeting been held as scheduled, I'm confident 100 persons, possibly many more, would have attended based on attendance at past neighborhood council general meetings featuring topics of wide neighborhood interest.

Colin Woodrow did not allow a vote during the Aug. 18 virtual general meeting.

Normally, the neighborhood council would vote to support or oppose the most significant development proposal to affect Grant Creek in decades. That vote would have been an indication of neighborhood sentiment after a thorough discussion of the topic at issue.

I find the inability of neighborhood residents to be allowed to express their support or opposition to the proposed rezoning at 2920 Expo Parkway through the normal operation of the Grant Creek Neighborhood Council to be disappointing at best.

Bert Lindler