Jane Rasely

Dear Planning Commission,
I would like to ask for your attention to issues of pedestrian safety in the context of the proposed Winslow Way hotel.

 As a homeowner on Grow, I see the daily foot traffic...high school students twice a day; dog-walkers; people with strollers; the middle-aged and elderly out for walks to the Moritani Preserve and Eagle Harbor; people heading downtown and to the ferry. Except for a portion of the street (about one and a half blocks) around the Grow Community, there are no sidewalks or bike lanes. Pedestrians are on a strip of land right next to cars and bikes.

Grow Ave, especially the portion from Wyatt to Winslow, is heavily used by cars and bikes as a N-S alternative to Madison. Recently a 20-mph speed limit was posted, but my observation as a neighborhood resident and pedestrian is that this limit is often exceeded...by bike commuters as well as drivers.

Last night I heard Jim Cutler say in the Design Review meeting that an analysis had been done by some national group on the possible traffic impact of the hotel's presence...and that the conclusion was, "no impact." I am only one elderly woman who lives on and uses the street; but I believe that at least some of the hotel's 85 guests, and its various delivery and service trucks, are going to choose Grow as their N-S corridor since it is closer than Madison. I cannot believe that adding these vehicles to the existing traffic-pedestrian mix won't complicate safety issues for walkers. If even locals do not respect the speed limit, can we believe that guests will, or—unfamiliar with island life—are prepared to deal with pedestrians so close to the roadway?

Walkabity is part of the quality of life for residents who live near Winslow. Please consider their needs and safety as you look at the viability of this project.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Eisenhood
468 Grow Ave NW
Bainbridge Island, WA

Sent from my iPhone