

From: Eileen Ward [mailto:eileenwa@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, October 28, 2016 5:01 PM
To: PCD <pcd@bainbridgewa.gov>; Missi Goss <mgoss@madronaschool.org>
Subject: Madrona School

Dear Josh,

We are writing to you in support of The Madrona School Conditional Use Permit. We are the parents of two children, grades 3 and kindergarten that attend The Madrona School. Our eldest has been at the school for 7 years when we enrolled in a parent/infant class. We were initially drawn to the school because of the beautiful class environment created by natural wooden toys, hand-spun wool, and hand-dyed silk fabric. We stayed because of the school's deeper commitment to the development of the whole child: heart, hand, and mind. The shared goal is to raise conscientious, intellectually curious, confident and creative children who will grow to become socially responsible adults and good stewards of the earth.

We recently experienced the fruits of this beautiful education in a harvest dinner prepared by our daughter's third grade class. Starting in the spring, she worked alongside her classmates at the farm to plant the seeds, tend the garden through the growing season, and harvest the bounty in the fall. All along the way learning about farming, botany, math, collaboration, and fostering a deep respect and gratitude for the earth.

We understand some of the neighbors have valid concerns about a school in their neighborhood, but I'm hoping the following will mitigate some of those concerns.

Preserving the Natural Landscape and Rural Feel:

- City regulations require that we keep 92.5% of the property in open space! This means that you will have a long-term neighbor morally committed and legally obligated to preserve as much of the natural environment as possible. This is a good thing!
- All of the existing trees and vegetation, with the exception of a few trees to be removed for an exit, will remain. In addition, trees will be planted alongside the south edge of the property to provide privacy screening for the immediate neighbors.
- The grades and early childhood classrooms are intentionally nestled on the north side of the lot and set way back from the road. They will barely be visible when driving by. Essentially, the visual feel of the property from the road will remain fairly close to what it is today.

Off-street Parking VS size of Assembly Hall:

- The Assembly Hall will seat a very tight 400, using folding chairs for adults, seating on the floor for the children, and a minimal 15 foot stage area at one end. It is much smaller than a standard school gymnasium. 400 may seem large and possibly random, but if you think of it as accommodating 100 children + siblings + parents you easily have 400. It is important to note that it will only be used to this capacity for a few all school events per year. This will not be standard use.
- The 39 parking spaces allow for ample on-site parking for daily use. The meadow will be used for overflow parking for the occasional school function. At our recent Michaelmas Festival we accommodated 90 cars in the meadow and not one car was parked along the shoulder of Madison or Windsong Loop. Arrangements have been made for overflow parking at a nearby church with a shuttle to the school should we need it. Again, this would be a very rare occasion.

Traffic Flow:

- When looking at the traffic flow, it is important to note that many of enrolled students are siblings, so they will not be coming in unique cars. In addition, many children carpool.
- Since we are a school, we can work with the city to lower the speed limit along Madison, making it safer for all of our children.
- The Madrona school has a rolling drop off period starting after the last bus picks up children by Windsong loop to go to local public schools.

We will continue to be responsible neighbors, and look forward to working with the city and the community to make the Madrona School and asset to us all.

Thank you,
Eileen Ward and Matthew Anderson
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