

Jane Rasely

From: Heather Wright
Sent: Thursday, August 29, 2019 4:36 PM
To: Jane Rasely
Subject: FW: Comments re: Winslow Hotel

From: Yumiko Damashek <ydamashek@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 23, 2019 5:28 PM
To: Heather Wright <hwright@bainbridgewa.gov>
Subject: Comments re: Winslow Hotel

Dear Ms. Wright:

My husband and I live on Wood Ave. in one of the 7 townhouses next to a senior living facility and the backside of the Seattle Children's Hospital Bargain Boutique. The proposed hotel will be right up against the backside of our houses.

Before getting into details, I would like to clarify my position on this development. I am not against property development in general as long as it fits well in the neighborhood environment and benefits this beautiful island in a long run. But this project does not appear to be suitable to the location nor does it seem to contribute to the sustainable growth of the island. With that in mind, I'd like to share my comments:

The biggest concern is its size. The proposed hotel is 6 times larger than what the site is zoned for. It started out as a 55+ room hotel and it got bigger and bigger as the developer changed the design to address various concerns of the community over time. For a quiet residential area with multiple senior living facilities in place, the proposed size is monstrous and it will certainly create a negative impact on the environment.

This size issue is my biggest concern because allowing the hotel of this size in this zone could set a precedent for downtown Winslow, bringing in more monstrous development projects in the future, which could certainly destroy the charm of the area. I know what could happen when a flood gate opens. My beloved hometown, Kyoto, Japan, is going through a construction bonanza and quickly losing its charm of an ancient capital of Japan, for which many tourists came to visit to begin with. Big hotel projects and commercial development are destroying the city. Congestion, noise, loss of its original beauty are some of the reasons that are driving some tourists away. And the city residents are heavily punished for the city's decision of putting their ambition for a short term revenue growth ahead of the well being of its residents. This is a direct result of the city letting the flood gate open for the maximization of their city revenue with very little regards to the consequences of their decision. Prior to that, there were many restrictions to preserve the old city which is considered the gem of Japan. Again, I'm not completely against city development but the city should have put together a well-planned development road map and set up the clear guidelines for what's beneficial for the city in a long run and what's detrimental to the sustainability of the city's growth. Once it's destroyed, you can't get back the original beauty. And the tourists dollars will evaporate along the way. The size and the impact may be different here but it still is a cautionary tale to me as I think about the Winslow Hotel proposal.

BI is a gem in its own right. Its exquisite natural beauty and charming downtown Winslow draw tourists to this destination. If they want huge hotels, concert halls and huge choices of restaurants and bars, they'd go elsewhere. The current balance is what draws tourists in my opinion and I would like to urge the city to allow development projects that would not disturb this delicate balance while rejecting what would disturb the balance and won't contribute to the sustainable growth of the island economy.

There are other concerns as well but I trust others will address them fully. For that reason, I decided to focus on the issues of the size and the sustainable growth of the island economy.

I hope the city will make the right decision that all of us can be grateful for and be proud of. We care about this beautiful island too much to let it go.

Thank you.

Yumiko Damashek