

To: Gene Poveromo
Subject: RE: Email from Sally Greene FW: a few public hearing comments

-----Original Message-----

From: Sally Greene [mailto:sally@ibiblio.org]
Sent: Sunday, June 17, 2007 9:35 PM
To: Carol Abernethy
Subject: a few public hearing comments

Carol,

Please send this message to the council & manager re the June 18 hearing.

Unfortunately I will be absent from the hearing on Monday night. With my family I have a commitment to be up in the mountains for a wedding. Here are a few thoughts I'd like to share and to ask you to pass on to the applicants.

Ram Development

An issue that was not raised at the Planning Board, but should be raised now, is: Whatever happened to the street parking they had proposed on Church Street? In the early plans, there were 12-15 diagonal spaces there. They talked about making them short-term parking (possibly one hour free?) to be available for quick trips to merchants in the development. I would strongly urge Ram to reconsider and put this parking back in the plan. It helps to "activate the street" as we have learned to say.

As I watched the Planning Board consider this project, I noticed that one member said she would prefer a grassy, green open space. Please ask Ram to explain why that's not a workable option. I believe they will say it's because with the parking deck immediately underneath the space, it would be like creating a rooftop garden. You need many vertical feet of dirt in order to plant trees and plants that would survive.

Animal services building

I watched the Planning Board and I thought they did a great job.

Library

As a member of the library building committee I commend this plan to you. The architects have been responsive to the library's needs, and I look forward to more good work over the summer.

Gateway Bank

I met with some representatives of the bank to discuss this news plan, which is much improved over the last one! If they could figure out how to make the drive through go through the back part of the L-shaped building, the part farthest from the highway, that would be better, but in principle I think this plan works, and I'd like to thank the architects for going back to the drawing board.

Thanks,
Sally