

Subject: FW: Last night's Plan Commission meeting
Date: Sunday, July 13, 2008 1:05 PM
From: Joseph O'Keefe <josephokeefe@msn.com>
To: <deborah.barry@deerparkneighbors.com>
Conversation: Last night's Plan Commission meeting

Teri Masino suggested that I send this letter to you. It's my comment on the Village's last public capital planning meeting. Feel free to include any of it in the newsletter. Thanks.

Jim Connors, the Village Administrator, said he would forward the comment to the Trustees.

From: josephokeefe@msn.com
To: deerparkoffice@comcast.net
Subject: Last night's Plan Commission meeting
Date: Tue, 8 Jul 2008 18:48:06 -0500

Please forward these comments to the Board of Trustees:

The Plan Commission's meeting of July 7 considered the subdivision of the two-acre property at 21624 Rainbow and the building of a second house on the back lot. The participants were very eloquent and clearly did much research on drainage and topographical issues to challenge the development of the cited property. While I understand the Plan Commission's limited recourse to challenge lot development which meets necessary site-specific ordinances, the challengers to this project represented the overwhelming majority of neighbors who together felt that the neighborhood has suffered not only from rapid development, but this further zoning change marks a period of accelerated development and neighborhood degradation. A petition signed by 55 neighbors - virtually everyone around the discussed property - expressed firm opposition. Although the petition organizers did not collect signatures from more distant neighbors, I am convinced the public policy issues in question would enjoy broad and enthusiastic support from other members of the Deer Park community.

As a resident on Old Farm Road, I am concerned that the rapid residential development is moving away from the community's self-imposed mandate of preserving its high quality of

life. As Deer Park participates in regional efforts to improve environmental conditions, it must be more considerate of additional real estate development which exacerbates drainage problems for current residents. Many residents at the hearing described the many drainage problems which have been difficult to control and were costly, sometimes proving ineffective as other neighbors made changes to their property. With the discussed property on Rainbow Road being at the topographical pinnacle of the area, several past property changes have created problems for other neighbors and threaten further problems and financial burdens for neighboring properties.

I believe the appropriate forum for these broader policy considerations is with the Board of Trustees. Many of our development decisions have been decided on incremental changes. I believe it is time to broaden our focus and consider that we must set some policy or regulatory guidelines which protect the interests of both current and future residents. Since the Village has limited financial resources, better development planning will preempt the cost of future government efforts to address drainage issues and sustain our beautiful landscape.

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