

Melanie Friesen

From: Jason Papanikolas
Sent: Monday, April 17, 2023 11:47 AM
To: Jodie Kulpa-Eddy; Melanie Friesen
Subject: PRECA Agenda Items

Good Morning:

The Green Team drafted this letter over the weekend and requests that it be sent to Quantum and Aldi Corporate. I know that we typically wouldn't discuss this at a budget worksession, but I will introduce it during my PRECA report and ask that we add to Thursday worksession for a max of 5 minutes.

The Berwyn Heights Council / Green Team would like to express support for sustainability improvements to the new Greenbelt ALDI location in Berwyn Heights.

First and foremost, the residents are excited to have a grocery store within easy walking distance. Many of us already walk to Giant and Target, and will feel much safer to avoid crossing Greenbelt Road. To make the best use of this new resource, we are writing to support the inclusion of walking and bicycling amenities at the new ALDI grocery location:

- * Create a continuous sidewalk from the Seminole Street pedestrian entrance to the storefronts. This should follow the fence on the west to avoid any parking lot automobile traffic.
- * Upgrade the Seminole Street stairway to an accessible ramp, for handicapped access, strollers, bicycles, etc.
- * Install bicycle parking racks in the parking lot along the new sidewalk.

These upgrades will both increase customer traffic and support the ALDI corporate climate goals by reducing customer travel carbon emissions.

Second, we support sustainable landscaping improvements:

- * Study how many parking spaces can be returned to permeable surfaces. This will support town storm water management goals.
- * If a sufficiently large area can be made permeable, plant one or more future canopy trees with enough turf to keep it healthy. This will absorb carbon and help reduce urban heat island effects, as well as make the property more attractive to customers.
- * Rainwater catchment and absorbing features. [NOTE: These require ongoing maintenance beyond normal landscaping, not sure how to estimate this.]

Third, we support and encourage the installation of solar panel on the property, both on the building and especially as canopy over the parking lot. Solar canopies reduce heat absorbed by asphalt. Over 120 Aldi locations nationwide already have solar panels installed. The Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 increased federal incentives for solar panel installation.

References:

ALDI corporate climate statement: <https://corporate.aldi.us/en/corporate-responsibility/sustainability/climate-energy/>

Federal solar tax credits: <https://www.energy.gov/eere/solar/federal-solar-tax-credits-businesses>

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50th Town Council

Town of Berwyn Heights