

Additional Materials

Regular Planning Commission Meeting

Assembly Chambers

7:00pm

Meeting Date: 11/14/2023

1. USE2023 0013, VAR 2023 0002, PWP2023 0003:

- a. Public comment: Pusich, received 11/6/23.
- b. Public comment: Crossley, received 11/07/23.
- c. Public comment: Juzeler, received 11/8/23.

From: Kay Pusich <mikespl@eagle.ptialaska.net>
Sent: Monday, November 6, 2023 1:03 PM
To: PC_Comments
Cc: Mikes Place
Subject: Douglas Indian Association Culture and Learning Center USE 2023 013

Dear Planning Commission Members and staff,

I would like to briefly comment on the proposed project. It certainly has a beautiful design and will enhance and benefit the Douglas community. That being said I do have concerns about the location and the parking being proposed and hope that you will consider the residential neighborhood around it and the users of Treadwell. Treadwell has a vast array of public that use it for recreation: hikes, runners, dog walking, disc golfers, and tours that educate the public on the Treadwell mine history. Since the renovation by the Treadwell Historical Society of the Office Building, CBJ Parks and Recreation also rents out the building for a variety of events ranging from plays, musical concerts, and private gatherings. The office building brings in revenue for the City and each year the use of it increases. Currently there are only a handful of parking spots at the trailhead. Several years ago CBJ altered the bus route in Douglas to not include St. Ann's turn around stating that traffic was congested, the road was too narrow, safety concerns, snow removal etc. and relocated that final bus stop to Savikko Park. None of that has changed, the use of Treadwell's popularity only grows as it is a wonderful Douglas destination. More parking is needed no doubt.

I have lived in Douglas all my life and am very familiar with St. Ann's Avenue. I have family and friends that reside there and have experienced issues myself when visiting trying not to block the neighbors driveway. The side street hills are very steep, in fact one a few blocks down is closed every winter for safety I presume. There are no sidewalks near this project, only further down St. Ann's Avenue. Having spots that require a car to "back out" will be dangerous given the pedestrian and vehicle traffic from Treadwell. With snow berms, Taku winds and lack of snow removal at times in winter I do have concerns.

Maybe having the Center located on a piece of property the same size at Savikko Park, and having CBJ keep those two lots on St. Ann's for parking at Treadwell would be an option. I have heard some suggestions from the public on that. It certainly would be more accessible. I realize that DIA has constraints on time for their grant money but also hope that the CBJ Planning Commission will take all things into consideration with the parking impacts to a residential neighborhood.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mary Kay Pusich

Ilisa Lund

From: Shannon Crossley <shannoncdore@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 7, 2023 9:17 AM
To: PC_Comments
Subject: Support of the DIA Project on St Ann's Ave

Good morning,

My name is Shannon Crossley, I am a resident at 611 St. Ann's Ave in Douglas. I am a third-generation Douglas girl, and grew up hearing stories from my Dad of the Indian Village, Treadwell, and the Douglas mafia. He was out of town during the burning of the village, but he remembers vividly the structures and the road down to the beach.

We are in a moment of reckoning for the City of Douglas, that the City of Juneau has absorbed and thus has absorbed its sins. We cannot say that the City and Borough of Juneau is absolved of their guilt because they were technically not the deciding votes in the matter, the City of Juneau likely supported what the City of Douglas was doing, and eventually voted to annex Douglas. We are finally to a point where we can talk about the trauma the colonizers of Douglas inflicted on the Douglas Indian Village, and as a descendant of one of the first families to shape the town of Douglas, I have come to terms with my family's probably involvement and support of such an atrocity. But how does the City of Douglas move forward?

The Douglas Indian Association was not given land as promised after the burning. Many promises were broken historically, but the City and Borough of Juneau has the power to make reparations. Our indigenous population wasn't involved with the zoning of their land, or the parking requirements, and there is very little representation of Alaskan Native home ownership in the town of Douglas. My Tlingit husband may be the only Alaskan Native on St. Ann's, we certainly haven't met another native neighbor yet.

I write this email to remind the commission that we should approach any Alaskan Native project in the City of Douglas with an air of grace and understanding, and humility that the reason they have to ask for permission in the first place to build a small educational center is squarely in the practices of a western framework they never agreed to be a part of. I don't have an opinion if the current location of the proposed project is in the right space, because that was the only land available to them. Land that was inappropriately built up and is costly to develop, but the DIA FINALLY owns a piece of property IN DOUGLAS. In my opinion, the city and the residents of Douglas should be supporting whatever development they propose for that very reason. I understand the NIMBY mentality to a certain extent, but let's not forget the city bus has run along St. Ann's, and the street is already heavily used by the community. I always check the street before letting my dogs out to the car, because there is usually a car driving past. People driving to a classroom isn't going to impact St. Ann's, in my local opinion.

As an employee of NorthWind Architects, I have seen how beautiful the building is, how it will nestle perfectly into the landscape, how it reflects the values of the tribe, how the scale is appropriate to the neighborhood, and the value of a learning center in my neighborhood. The Native practices, values and education to be offered in such a place will benefit me and my family. My husband's child will be moving to Juneau soon to reconnect with their Dad and their heritage, and the prospect they may be able to take classes at the end of our street is very exciting.

Honestly, I believe that the site as proposed isn't the BEST site, but again, the only one available to the tribe. I support the project as proposed. The educational center sits in front of the planning commission because the City hasn't made peace or reparations with the village, as they should, and DIA is doing the best they can. I support Mayflower Island or a parcel of underutilized land between the Mayflower School and Treadwell Arena as well. I hope the esteemed planning commission will vote to allow for the development, and trust they have their community's best interest at heart. I hope the City and Borough of Juneau will listen to the residents of Douglas that a larger and flatter site within the proximity of

the dismantled Village would benefit both DIA and CBJ, and it will be offered in a land trade, so we can all move forward. We all can walk away from this situation happy, and I trust the Planning Commission and City and Borough of Juneau will do the right thing in this situation.

Thank you for your time!

Shannon Crossley

Child of William Dore and Kathleen Lawson
Grandchild of William Dore and Alfreda Fleek

From: Rachael Juzeler <rjuzeler@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 8, 2023 8:20 AM
To: PC_Comments; Irene Gallion
Subject: DIA Learning Center comments

Dear Planning Commission,

My name is Rachael Juzeler and I reside directly across the street from the proposed DIA Learning Center at the end of St. Ann's where I have lived for over 22 years.

I would like to express my strong support for this project.

Not only will this architecturally aesthetic building be welcomed over the empty lot which has served as a fill dumping ground over the years, but the location is ideal for a Learning Center for the Douglas Indian Association, as it overlooks the site where the Douglas Indian Village once stood.

I urge you to adopt the necessary variances and parking waivers to allow this project to continue.

I have observed that there has been great care and considerations granted to the neighborhood in developing this project, and the parking plan will be welcomed as currently, dog walkers, frisbee golf players and community members utilizing the Treadwell trails and facilities often park their cars lined along the road in a haphazard manner, whereas nine off-street backout spaces will greatly relieve this occasional congestion.

Once again, I strongly urge you to allow this project to proceed. I can think of no better use for this parcel of land perched above Sandy Beach.

Thank you for your time and feel free to reach out with any questions,
Kind Regards, Rachael

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As ever I remain, R.