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Subject: A few thoughts -
From: "David Bosworth" <davebosworth@hotmail.com>
Date: Tue, January 10, 2006 10:36 pm
To: dreeb@albany.edu
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Don:

Thanks for the update and feedback.

FYI, Just a reminder - that BOTH Mike Ricard and myself now serve as Liaisons to the Neighborhood Associations.

It would be wise to be very cautious to avoid alienating Mike Ricard in any way, (even though he never attends MIA Meetings.) I would respectfully include his name in any announcements that you might want to make about the Neighborhood Liaison roles.

I can appreciate Steve's wish to push ahead with the Neighborhood Master Plan for McKownville, however, I would remind you that we are just getting under way with the Guilderland Hamlet Study project and have made a major commitment of staff time and consultant resources to the Study. Given the Town's limited Planning staff and limited allocated financial resources within this year's austere Town Budget - getting approval for a second major Planning front might be difficult. However, at the same time, I am reluctant to dampen Steve's enthusiasm and energy in wanting to move forward.

The McKownville Neighborhood Master Plan will require the hiring of an outside professional consultant (via the RFP process) and the allocation of substantial funds to pay for the consultant's work. I should also note that the Westmere Corridor Design Project has long been slated to follow next after the Guilderland Hamlet Study. As you know, the Hamlet and Westmere neighborhoods are under equal or greater business development and traffic pressures as McKownville.

The MIA may want to consider not casting the hard won Zoning Review Committee aside quite so quickly, (as we have already discussed.) It took almost a year for Ken to agree to this very unprecedented Neighborhood Planning, Zoning Review and Citizen Participation Initiative. Given the current circumstances - I would advise trying to work through this Board approved mechanism to the fullest extent possible - particularly as long as it will stand to bear fruit. Gaining access and input to the Town Planning mechanism via bi-weekly meetings is quite an achievement.

I would summarize by injecting my personal bias and blunt observation that we are trying to make up for more than thirty years of inadequate planning and neglect for McKownville, and for that fact - the rest of the Town. I think we need to keep in mind that we are bound to encounter frustration and impatience as we attempt to ameliorate the realities before us.

Keep the faith and keep up the good work ! Damn the torpedoes, and full speed ahead !