

Keizer City Council:

Reading Mr. Lien's rebuttal to community concerns voiced at the June 20 public meeting makes me wonder why we don't save a lot of time and bother with these meetings and just ask the experts how we should handle these public concerns.

The question, of course, is rhetorical. It's that old business of government "of the people, by the people, and for the people." Thank God for that, otherwise we ignorant yokels would be forever steered in one direction or another by a few elitist know-it-alls.

The development of the Herber property on Verda Lane has been met with stiff opposition at each hearing from a chamber full of impassioned if inexperienced testimony. This Mr. Lien dismissed as the "wants and desires of a few neighbors." It is much more than that, and some credibility should be given to the passion.

For each person vocally opposing this change there are many others in the community, typically those described by Thoreau as "the mass of men living lives of quiet desperation." Please excuse the dismal comparison, but I get this sense when I speak to some of my neighbors who have lived on Verda Lane for many years longer than I. I get this sense when I hear them describe the slow degradation of the quality of life here. You see, they remember when Verda Lane was regarded as a "lane" and not a prospective three lane freeway.

I really believe it is this sense of loss that motivates many people to testify against this project. Many have come to the microphone in the council chamber with articulate arguments, and some armed only with emotional and sentimental statements about cows and pastures. One thing that we all have in common, even if subliminally, is the deep, nagging sense that when too many people are squeezed into a small community, the quality of life is bound to suffer. The idea that the traffic on Verda Lane is currently far below its capacity is absolutely incredible to those who actually live on the street. The anxiety of increased crime is also hardly assuaged by empty promises of "higher quality renters" of which absolutely no assurance currently exists.

Maybe what we sense here is the gradual loss of our common heritage, something handed down to us by the sturdy founding pioneers who measured their domain in acres rather than square feet. Most of them braved a difficult crossing to restore what they felt was gradually being degraded in their eastern residences. The introduction of high density housing onto Verda Lane, and its attendant crowding, is more than slow degradation, it is a step change in the wrong direction. Unfortunately most of us, living lives of quiet desperation, have nowhere to go.

The old house on the Herber property is an eerie reminder of this loss. While I must agree with Multi/Tech engineering (the company promoting the fanciful, and completely baseless vision of how the proposed complex will appear) that the old place seems a bit beyond saving, I really would rather have heard it from someone without a profit motive in seeing it burned to the ground.

Which brings me to a final point. Of all the proponents of this plan, the Herber Family, the hired attorney and the hired engineering firm: no one has a motive to benefit this neighborhood. If this proposal is approved and the apartment complex is built, after the profits

are divvied up and the proponents are long gone...only the residents of Verda Lane and environs will remain behind to deal with any consequences.

Keizer City Council: Vox Populi! Please listen to the voice of the people.

Alan Kendall
Keizer, Oregon

Harms, Tammie

From: Harms, Tammie
Sent: Monday, August 08, 2016 11:41 AM
To: Sam Litke (LitkeS@Keizer.org)
Cc: Nate Brown (BrownN@Keizer.org); Shannon Johnson (JohnsonS@Keizer.org)
Subject: FW: Herber Family Property Rezoning proposal
Attachments: Final statement on Herber Property.doc

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

From: Alan Kendall [mailto:alankendall51@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, August 07, 2016 8:31 PM
To: Davis, Tracy <DavisT@keizer.org>
Subject: Herber Family Property Rezoning proposal

Tracy Davis:

I respectfully submit the attached statement in opposition to the proposed zoning change on the Herber property on Verda Lane.

Alan Kendall
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Keizer, OR 97303