

Amy Johnson

From: John Meyer <jkm@caretrust.us>
Sent: Friday, June 22, 2018 1:40 PM
To: CityRecorder; citycouncil
Subject: Corrected Statement regarding the Proposed Hilfiker Park Master Plan - Action item 3.3c. 18-232 on the City Council Agenda for June 25th, 2018
Attachments: Hilfiker Lane Extension - Hilfiker Park Plan.pdf; Submission Re Hilfiker Park Master Plan - John Meyer - June 22 2018.pdf

My apologies, there were some typos in the email we sent at 12:59 pm. Please replace it with this email.

Subject: Statement regarding the Proposed Hilfiker Park Master Plan - Action item 3.3c. 18-232 on the City Council Agenda for June 25th, 2018
June 22, 2018

Dear Mr. Romanek,

Background:

Our family owns the Meyer Urban Farm, located at 4540 Pringle Rd. The farm and its historic family farmhouse, located adjacent to the Hilfiker Park, have been maintained and restored by many generations of the family. The farmhouse is not only an integral part of our heritage, it is the cornerstone of the Meyer Urban Farm, comprising 29 acres adjacent to the park. To be more specific, the entire south property line of our farm borders on the park. Some 70 years ago, our parents, Henry and Marian Meyer, acquired the farm, and from that time, all generations of our family have enjoyed the beauty of the woods, now the Hilfiker Park, and have played there, long before it became a park. Grandchildren and great-grandchildren still enjoy it to this day. Like our neighbours, the Hilfikers and Jacksons, we are truly homesteaders in this beautiful area of Salem and want to see it preserved.

Our Concern:

We have a major concern about the impact of the proposed Hilfiker Lane street extension that is identified as "high priority" planned to be installed along our southernmost property line within the next 10 years. Based on Figure 1-2 of the plan, attached, this proposed street extension would have two very significant negative impacts on our property:

- a. A beautiful and historic stand of specimen native Oregon White Oak that runs along the property line would be destroyed by asphalt and concrete. That is inconsistent with the goals and principles of the Hilfiker Master Plan documents as presented and a contradiction within the plan itself. Until this conflict can be resolved, we feel an affirmative statement supporting this issue should be included in the plan regarding natural resources, landscape, and existing features preservation, namely, that these principles "apply as well to areas adjacent to or surrounding the park."

- b. The proposed road extension requires a significant taking of land that would impact the farmhouse, and other buildings, roads, wells, as well as historic fir and oak trees. This could result in the loss of our family heritage, tearing the heart out of the Meyer Urban Farm with asphalt and concrete, not even considering the significant adverse financial impacts.

We appreciate your consideration of these important issues in your efforts to make this park special and an important part of our community. Thank you for asking for our input.

Sincerely,
John Meyer

Attachment: Figure 1-2 of the Hilfiker Park Site Assessment Report, October 2017

Figure 1-2: Overview Map



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on the City Council Agenda for June 25th, 2018

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