

Ruth Stellmacher

From: renee phillips <renphil@me.com>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 11:39 AM
To: citycouncil
Subject: SW corner Rural/John Sj

I am familiar with the property located on the SW corner of Rural/John S. Prior to development it was a jumble of random buildings and overgrown space and somewhat of an eye sore. Someone with vision developed the Rural/John corner into a peaceful, co-hesive desirable little enclave. The transformation enhanced the site's value as well as surrounding values.

I am fortunate to live in and enjoy a peaceful, co-hesive neighborhood as well. I live in Gaiety Hill area on Church St. I know many of my neighbors and enjoy community commonalities. We enjoy the liveliness of street bicyclists, skate boarders, joggers, dog walkers, hospital workers, city worker walkers, families and a sundry of others who pass through our area on a daily basis. However, increasingly common, we find ourselves sharing our space with folks who do not seem to share the intrinsic values of our neighborhood.

Our area is experiencing an up-tick in public urination, defecation, drug dealers and users, overdoses, homelessness, thefts, break-ins, random debris and other undesirable behavior.

My home sits approximately 46 long-legged paces off the street. About a week or so ago (while working in the front yard) I watched a disheveled, 30ish man, who seemed to be under the influence of a mind altering substance (while no expert, please know my own family has been profoundly impacted by drug addiction, deaths, incarcerations; just saying, I know what impairment looks like). This compromised young man walked approximately 35 long-legged paces into my yard. Every hair on the back of my neck stood up. It was only after he looked up and saw my yard man near my porch that he quickly turned and walked away.

My home is in view of the public. This proposed bike path is NOT! Ingress/egress is hidden through a quiet cemetery, numerous mature trees, lush vegetation, secret corners and obstructed views. This seems, to me, to be a magnet for undesirable activities. This bike path proposal seeks to divide these private yards and disrupt the peace of this somewhat secure enclave. This proposal would in NO WAY enhance the safety and security of those who call this area "home".

Ask yourself if you would want this situation for your son/daughter? your elderly father/mother? your widowed sister, or soft spoken brother? Would any one of the above like to deal with questionable folks crossing through their yard at all hours day or night? That the

city council is even considering this proposal is incomprehensible given the evolving needs and awareness of our current turbulent world.

There are other alternatives at hand: including a nearby street!; an existing bike path just west of this proposal; and numerous bike friendly streets already.

Prior to doing something terribly undesirable to all those who would be adversely impacted in the Rural/John corner, please ask yourself if this is something you would actually impose on yourself? Your truthful answer should be a resounding NO!

Thank You

Renee Phillips
645 Church St. SE
Salem, OR 97301