

The following email(s) were received after the original packet was posted on Thursday, September 23, 2021 until the submission deadline posted on the City's website of noon, the day of the hearing (September 28, 2021)

Baden, Jennifer

From: Electric City <electriccityrepair@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 27, 2021 10:21 PM
To: PCPubComm
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony for Harris Park Plan

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

As a local business owner in the Historic Downtown Westminster area I do like the majority of this plan and it looks like it will certainly revitalize an otherwise run down area. The main concern I have is that the building that my business is in has been marked as an "Investor Opportunity". This means to me that I may be squeezed out by developers with deeper pockets than I have and it is cause for concern for existing and established local businesses.

I do like the area and I would rather not try to find a new location. Would the city be willing to work with established local businesses or property owners in these run down buildings to help them become investors in their own community? I am currently in the building that was originally Bay's Rexall, built in 1964 and I think the structure has great potential to stay original with a little updating and maintenance.

If the plan is to just scrape away the block at 72nd and Lowell I may as well start looking for another area for my business since I can not compete financially with developers. This business is literally how I put food on the table and not just a part of an investment portfolio. I can't be in a position where I would have to suddenly shut down and I will need to make plans for the future.

Eric Johnson
Electric City Repair and Records

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Baden, Jennifer

From: David Wright <david.westypes@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 28, 2021 11:31 AM
To: PCPubComm
Cc: Lawrence, Nathan
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Harris Park Planning Commission Testimony

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Rev. David Wright, Pastor
Westminster Presbyterian Church
3990 W. 74th Avenue
Westminster, CO 80030

I am writing both to share my support and concerns regarding the Harris Park Community Vision Plan.

Westminster Presbyterian Church, located at 74th Avenue and Bradburn Blvd, acts as an anchor point to the Harris Park neighborhood. Not only are we the oldest religious congregation in the City of Westminster, but the church has been a focal point of civic activity and charitable efforts for all of the Harris Park neighborhood.

On behalf of the church, we support Harris Park Community Vision Plan, and we encourage business development in our neighborhood, both along 73rd Avenue ("Arts Corridor") and 72nd Avenue, and we laud city efforts to both support existing businesses and creatively furnish new endeavors.

We also strongly encourage the development of new housing, especially affordable housing opportunities. Harris Park is currently the home of some units that are both transitional housing for families who have experienced homelessness and also designated affordable senior housing. We welcome and encourage more of the same.

Our church building currently houses "Adams County Little Stars Head Start", a free bi-lingual preschool available to eligible Adams County families. We ask the city to retain funding to this preschool as a public service and consider the presence of this school in light of future development planning.

A significant concern we share with the plan, however, is the lack of an expansion of public services in the development plan. While Police and Fire are both accessible to the neighborhood, a major concern, especially amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, is the lack of services for unhoused individuals and families, including those sleeping in cars, hotels, "doubled up" in friend or family housing beyond suitable use, or sleeping outdoors. There are no overnight homeless shelters in the whole of Adams County. Nor is there a "Day Center", a hub to access day-to-day needs as well as social services.

The Harris Park Neighborhood is currently served by three food banks: "FISH of Westminster", hosted by Westminster Presbyterian Church, "Growing Home", and "Have-a-Heart" located in the Annex of the Colorado STEM School, opposite Growing Home on 72nd Avenue. In addition to food, these three food banks combine to provide clothing, household wares, survival supplies, hygiene items, and referral to other social services. At Westminster Presbyterian Church, we also work closely with Ash Rud, the Homeless Navigator for the City of Westminster to assist clients with their social service needs, and in the winter ,we act as a referral to the SWAP ("Severe Weather Activation Plan") for overnight shelter during severe weather, provided by Adams County.

Through street outreach, especially led by Alan Farb and Heather McClure, we have identified 100 unique unhoused individuals dwelling within 1 mile walking distance from Westminster Presbyterian Church who were present during some or all of 2020.

In developing our neighborhood, we ask the city to please consider additional social services to match the desired residential and commercial development. This would especially include a "Day Center", perhaps similar to "The Rising Church" in Arvada, "The Refuge" in Broomfield or "The Action Center" in Lakewood, where clients could both access day-to-day needs like food, clothing, hot showers, hygiene items, survival supplies, and also serve as a location hub to access long-term social service needs, like access to WIC, TANF, Medicaid, VA Benefits, Medical and Dental clinics, and perhaps legal assistance. We also urge the city, in cooperation with Adams County, to develop more overnight shelter beds, especially for these dangerous cold weather months.

As the City continues to seek feedback in cooperation with our Harris Park neighbors, Westminster Presbyterian Church is happy to support city efforts to provide meeting space in our building for hearings, or host city functions in our parking lot and on our property, especially in adjacence to "Church Park" on the corner of 74th and Bradburn.

Thank you to all of you, neighbors, friends, and civil servants, who have dedicated so much of their time and energy into revitalizing our historic neighborhood. We also thank those city officials who have received and openly considered feedback from our neighbors in the development of this Community Vision Plan.

Grace and Peace,

Rev. David Wright, Pastor
Westminster Presbyterian Church