

From: [Story Swett](#)
To: [Wheeler, Mayor](#); [Commissioner Ryan Office](#); [Commissioner Hardesty](#); [Commissioner Mapps](#); [Commissioner Rubio](#); [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: SPB Master Plan
Date: Wednesday, June 9, 2021 8:56:05 AM

Respectfully,

I write in full opposition to the Council's approval of the proposed master plan for the South Park Blocks. From the outset, funded by private developer monies, (funds ironically intended as an off-set to the potential adverse-effect on this public amenity from an out-sized building developed which casts it's shadow on the adjacent South Park Blocks), the master planning process has been tainted by special interest influence and a public outreach process that made a mockery of truly inclusive, independent public input. The master plan process was further corrupted by a PP&R management plan that ignores the wisdom of conventional public resource planning which would base future planning on the resource's origin and past. It is apparent that no legitimate effort was spent on understanding and documenting the origin and a inclusive history of the place. Despite the misgivings of a public afforded little legitimate opportunity for redress, the master plan proceeded through a series of reviews and revision without benefit of a basis in its history. It's apparent that the master plan sought to ignore the singular-nature, simplicity and integrity of the existing park service to their own short-sighted objectives, to subdivide and activate the park through poorly- conceived means. Little thought was invested by the planners which would have guided their plans towards a comprehensive approach respecting those aspects of the park that has worked so wonderfully for 168 years of public use.

For these reasons, I respectfully object to the Master Plan's approval and in an act to restore public confidence, recommend the adoption of a City effort meet their obligation and commitment, as a certified local government, by completing the National Register Process and establish a baseline understanding of the origin and value of open space as a historic public resource before further and potentially-irreversible change is contemplated.

Sincerely,

B Story Swett

Architect

Sent from my iPhone