

From: [Diane Perry](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: South Park Blocks Master Plan
Date: Thursday, June 17, 2021 3:16:09 PM

Dear Mayor Wheeler,
Commissioner Hardesty
Commissioner Mapps,
Commissioner Rubio,
Commissioner Ryan,

I am very fortunate to live a few blocks from the South Park Blocks. The blocks are beautiful, restorative, calming and yet energizing, and I love being so close to them.

I attended a local meeting a few days ago regarding the South Parks Blocks Master Plan, and some of the information presented there concerned me.

Some at the meeting felt the old elms were in danger of being removed prematurely. The Master Plan refers to removing elms “as they age and succumb to disease” or structural issues, and I would like to trust the Parks Department to carefully decide when those issues are truly present before removing any elm.

The word “activate” is used in the Master Plan, and one of the proposals to do that is to create a wider concrete walkway where there are now two narrower ones separated by planting beds. The South Park Blocks already see a lot of activity at different times of the day, week, month and year. More activity will not necessarily make the blocks more attractive because part of their attraction is a sense of calm, and in an urban environment, especially with what we’ve seen happen in Portland during the past year, calming places in our City are vital.

I love the blocks the way they are. They are well-maintained and in my opinion don’t need “improving” or “activating”. I voted for **Measure 26-213** because it said funds would go toward making access to parks programs and services more equitable, including offering more free programs to low-income households. It would also go toward keeping parks and natural areas clean and well-maintained.

That’s what I want the money to go toward, not changing the South Park Blocks. Please keep them well-maintained and beautiful, keep the plants healthy. But many of the changes proposed in the Master Plan would not add to the great place it already is.

Please vote NO on the current South Park Blocks Master Plan.

Thank you,
Diane Perry
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