

Adam, Hillary

From: Raoul Rabinowitz <pdxseven@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 06, 2017 4:01 PM
To: Adam, Hillary
Cc: Burton Francis
Subject: LU 16-100496 DZM MS – Block 290, Slabtown Square

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Mr or Ms Adam,

I am writing to you to comment on the proposed development near Besaw's on 21st and Pettygrove.

I have occasion to walk in that neighborhood from the Pearl (where I live) since Besaw's relocated there from 23rd and also since the New Seasons went in some time ago. This is a rapidly changing neighborhood, as you know, and it is important that Portland get it right.

I am all for development in that area, but as has been pointed out, I believe, the proposed 'square' is not at all what a village square should be. The current proposal is boxed in on 3 sides and seems very much like a private or semi-private area. With how small it is, and with how high the surrounding building is, I would not feel welcomed in that space at all. Once you enter from the only open side, all eyes are on you. I would get the feeling that you would want to get your business done at whatever store might be within the depths of that space and then get out, quickly. I can't even imagine how it would be on a cold, rainy Portland day; all dark and boxed in and echo-y.

I think the developers are from Georgia, right? Certainly they are familiar with the famous squares in Savannah. Those are some public squares right there: open, inviting, stately, even. I wish that we had more development in Portland that promotes openness and livability. I'm just thinking that I would not be interested to eat my lunch in that space, even if it was something really delicious that I had just gotten from New Seasons.

Please reconsider the actual use of the space. I know we are at a disadvantage because we don't know what the public park area, also a part of this development tract, will look like, or even if it will ever get built. If there was plenty of open space, public space, around in the area, then maybe such a boxed in area like the one proposed would provide an 'alternative' space that was more cozy. As it is, this 'square' is just not accessible, inviting, or 'livable'.

Thank you for considering my thoughts,
Burton Francis
Pearl District resident