

From: [Sandy Sweet](#)
To: [Wheeler, Mayor](#)
Cc: [Commissioner Mapps](#); [Commissioner Rubio](#); [Commissioner Hardesty](#); [Commissioner Ryan Office](#); [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: South Park BlockMaster Plan Resolution - 7/15/2021
Date: Friday, July 9, 2021 11:06:58 AM

As a new resident in Portland, I hesitate to ask you to do your jobs in a certain way, but I am astounded to think that the city would cut down gorgeous (and healthy!!) elms in order to pour concrete and plant evergreens in the South Park Blocks.

I am familiar with the recommendations of the Downtown Neighborhood Association for the South Park Blocks and believe this approach to preserving and maintaining this lovely canopy of trees is essential to those of us living in the neighborhood. In addition, a grouping of ancient trees such as these deserve to be honored, rather than razed. And it is especially heinous to think that elegant trees would be replaced with concrete, especially in a consciously green town like Portland.

The South Park Blocks are part of what attracted us to downtown living, as opposed to choosing the Pearl (with its few parks but no trees that are not brand new) or a neighborhood near downtown. We enjoy many cultural activities and so prefer to be near enough to those that we don't need to drive or park to attend (one of these days!). And having a shady canopied area nearby through which to stroll or walk purposefully has been a delight.

I understand that a land developer proposed these changes as part of a master plan, but is no longer interested in building in the area. Adding hardscape to an area will create added impediments to development with risks of increased flooding and standing water as a probable result of removing land and trees that will better use and absorb our abundant rains.

So, I urge you to adopt the Downtown Neighborhood Association's recommendations right away or, at the very least, place a moratorium on any action that would destroy any trees until the public at large can be included in this decision.

Thank you for your consideration,

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