

From: Sally Eastman <sal-e@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 7:41 AM
To: PlanComm; Alex Dambach
Subject: Docket Item #10 Douglas MacArthur School

The the Planning Commission,

We, at MacArthur, are in desperate need of a learning cottage; we had hoped it would be installed last year for the beginning of this school year. Unfortunately, it was not and our band and orchestra students are forced to learn in a CLOSET off of the gym. Not the best location for learning. MacArthur is a wonderful school but is very overcrowded. I strongly encourage you to go ahead with the learning cottage plan as soon as possible. Your support is appreciated.

Sincerely,
Sara Eastman
Mom to 2 and soon-to-be 3 MacArthur students

From: Sharri Ralis <sralis@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 12:27 PM
To: PlanComm; Alex Dambach
Subject: DOCKET ITEM #10: Douglas MacArthur Elementary School Special Use Permit for Installing a Learning Cottage

March 3, 2015

RE: Planning Commission, *DOCKET ITEM #10*

Subdivision #2014-0017, Rezoning #2014-0014, Special Use Permit #2014-0125 1101 Janney's Lane – Douglas MacArthur School

Dear Mr. Dambach and Members of the Planning Commission:

I write to you on behalf of the Douglas MacArthur PTA. The docket item before you is to install a 'learning cottage' on what many would believe is the back of the MacArthur property, abutting a long-existing fence. However, part of the current MacArthur building occupies a small sliver of parkland, as would the proposed learning cottage.

Last fall, an SUP was approved to place the cottage on MacArthur property that would not require all the approvals that are before you today. When the time came to prepare for the placement, it was determined that the approved location would cause impacts to the safety of students, block windows in the building, as well as several other issues of concern. A second proposal would have placed the learning cottage on the school's already-too-small playground area. The PTA is strongly opposed to the locations that would impact student safety or impede the use of outdoor space.

We are in desperate need of this learning cottage. MacArthur is beyond capacity. The proposed location would be tucked back into an area of the MacArthur 'land' that is not in a main travel path for students, and not in an area that is used regularly and densely during outdoor recess. We had hoped to have it installed last fall, and for the entire school year to date, students taking band and orchestra have been practicing in a hot storage closet off of the gym because there is not another space at MacArthur. We have students in classrooms with no windows, we have any number of other building issues—this cottage will help alleviate the pressure of the overcrowding MacArthur currently experiences and will place it in a location that represents the least impact to the functioning of the school. ACPS has assured us that upon approval, they will immediately begin the process of installing the learning cottage. While only for a few more months of the school year, it will be a welcome addition.

We are available to answer any questions you may have between now and the hearing and our former PTA President, Mary Catherine Gibbs, will be at the Planning Commission meeting to answer any questions.

Very sincerely,

Sharri Ralis

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