

Olivia Dias

From: SARAH OWENS <hlowens2@msn.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 3, 2020 7:20 AM
To: Olivia Dias
Cc: CanDo Board
Subject: Case No. CPC-NPC-ZC-SPR-ADJ-DR20-03 for 905 & 925 Cottage St NE

In light of Grant's decision to appeal the Planning Commission's decision and the fact that there will now be a hearing before the City Council on November 23, CANDO would like to re-submit its comment on the project as public comment for that hearing:

Comment from CANDO:

CANDO supports approval of the proposed affordable housing project, per the vote at the July 2020 meeting.

From the July minutes:

The board heard a presentation by DevNW CEO Erin Dey and Emily Reiman, Director of Real Estate Development, on the revised plan to develop the Evergreen Presbyterian Church property at the corner of D and Cottage Streets, border of CANDO and Grant, inside Grant. The property is on the market because of the prohibitive cost of making the church building ADA-accessible and other needed upgrades. The basic plan is to provide ~20 smallish (studio/1BR) units of affordable housing while maintaining the building exteriors as conditions of approval of any rezone, except as needed to comply with ADA/safety standards (a rezone of the property is needed). Funding sources require affordable rents be maintained for a minimum of 20 years. DevNW currently rents an office in CANDO at 437 Union Street NE. DevNW is recognized by the City of Salem as a Community Housing Development Organization. A 3d-party traffic study concluded the development will not increase traffic. The original plan was to convert the manse/parsonage into an office for DevNW. The plan was revised in response to objections from the Grant neighborhood association board (GNA) and the City Council. GNA indicated at its July 9 meeting that it will oppose the revised plan as well.

All board members present reside within a few blocks of the proposed development. Comments included concerns that GNA still opposes the project, and that the GNA isn't representative of the neighborhood feeling on the project. Rebekah Engle stated that all the people she knows in the area directly around her apartment building are very supportive of the project. The board recognized the acute need in the neighborhood for smaller (studio/1BR) residential units.

Sarah Owens
CANDO Secretary/Treasurer