

Ajah Eills

From: Linda Talman
Sent: Monday, February 24, 2025 8:37 AM
To: Ajah
Subject: South end - history and dreams V3

Ajah, can you forward this to the council and pc members, please?

Thanks

Zoning - history and dreams.

There wasn't always zoning here. The tribal people were guided by the needs of their people. Nothing was owned.

There wasn't a La Conner. The Swinomish trading post ("borrowed" name) preceded the name of La Conner.

When I arrived (1972) it seemed that planning was relatively new.

The first zone that I recall in the south end was industrial. we had the pea cannery and Puget sound shipping, and there was a fish food business there as well. It was, well, industrious - and it gave people decent jobs.

Along came a developer with a familiar consultant. The people who were against his plan were against it because they wanted people to have good living wage jobs.

Eventually the town created the Transitional Commercial Zone (TCZ) to appease both sides.

The TCZ is a mixture of many uses - services, professional offices, trade schools, gyms, restaurants, clubs. and lots more. Residential was allowed as a conditional use. The process and requirements for developing that big piece of property (which is currently owned by one entity for the most part) are explained in the TCZ code.

The TCZ code is not very old compared to other parts of the municipal code. It needs tweaking but what doesn't?

What I don't like about the South End development proposal is not what it has - but what it doesn't have: opportunities.

Opportunities for living wage jobs and perhaps training for those jobs. Opportunities to experience a backyard of sorts. An opportunity for the South Enders to have a neighborhood since the proposed housing is tiny units located in the current and very ugly parking lot on top of parking (literally) and they have no backyards. There is no opportunity for South Enders to hang out - to walk to a coffee shop or food truck and watch kids play.

And dare I say- we could have opportunity for a new Maple Field?

And from the town- I ask that you give the South End enhanced walking and biking, an extended path connecting First Street to Conner Park. Honor the survey.

And to the owners of that property, I hope that you will pursue your dream of building something - maybe something to do with aviation-and that you use the labor of local people. How satisfying that would be -- for all of us.

Linda Talman

Reference chapter 15.36 of La Conner Municipal code.

Sent from my iPhone