

Late Backup

Oppose NPA-2012-0018.07 and 09 (4804 and 4802 Grover Avenue, Austin, TX 78756)

Edwin Wheelock was superintendent of the Texas School for the Blind, 140 years ago. Later he was first minister of our church. His daughter left money to buy and build just north of that school for the blind. In fact, Grover runs north south, and dead ends in the parking lot of the church. The only way to extend it further south would be to chop through the school for the blind.

Our church has over 400 members, and is very active, with two church services on Sunday mornings, as well as classes for children and adults, and many other activities during the week.

We host neighborhood events. We have a public affairs forum, with many excellent speakers, including former forum leader Lee Leffingwell. The Paradox players produces three professionally performed plays a year. The Austin Chamber Music Center performs many Saturday night concerts in our sanctuary.

But all of this is now up for grabs.

South of 49th Street, where Grover has already become dead end, applicants have one story structures. According to the current restrictions of the Brentwood Neighborhood Plan, they could get zoning of up to 40 feet.

But that, apparently, is not enough. Applicants hunger and thirst for permission to go up to 90 feet. Forget about activities at the church. Forget about fire/police, and EMS. Forget about impervious cover, and storm sewers. Forget even about the health, safety, and accessibility for those they'd have rent future apartments; think instead of that Hollywood movie gang that would take the money and run.

Applicants will insist that that want "progress". They'll say that to develop Austin, they need higher density. But of course they can do that, already. They purchased properties with one story structures, in a neighborhood, not on an arterial street. They knew what they were buying, and they can get 3 stories with the current plan.

That apparently is not enough. With money, they want to be gluttons.

I urge you to turn down both of these requests.

--John Keohane
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