

Ullman, Sara C.

From: Ullman, Sara C.
Sent: Tuesday, February 20, 2024 2:00 PM
To: wwwendy
Subject: RE: Franklin Academy's Project

Hi Wendy,

A hearing date has not been set. Notice for the Hearing Examiner meeting will be sent to all property owners within 500' of the site as well as parties of record like yourself 10 days before the date of the hearing.

Thank you for your additional comments. I will save your email to the record and forward it to the applicant.

Sincerely,

Sara Ullman
Planner II
City of Bellingham Planning and Community Development
210 Lottie Street
Bellingham, WA 98225
Phone: 360-778-8366
Email: scullman@cob.org



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Please note: My incoming and outgoing email messages are subject to public disclosure requirements per RCW 42.56.

From: wwwendy <dustinthewendy@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 16, 2024 4:51 PM
To: Ullman, Sara C. <scullman@cob.org>
Subject: Re: Franklin Academy's Project

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Thanks Sara.

Another thing I've noticed is that Franklin Academy has apparently also taken over the building that was formerly ALife school at the corner of Guide at Cornwall park. This building is their Robotics and Coding lab. So now their footprint on the community feels even more heavy.

Why can't THIS building be used to meet their needs instead of the demolition and expansion of the old building? I have only just seen this Robotics & Coding lab show up in the last month I believe.

As I've already stated...something doesn't add up here. A LOT of expense for a business that says it's not going to grow it's numbers!

Now they have 3 buildings within 3 blocks all along Victor. TOO MUCH for a private entity in my opinion. Has a hearing been set yet?

Thanks for your time.

Wendy

On Fri, Feb 16, 2024 at 10:54 AM Ullman, Sara C. <scullman@cob.org> wrote:

Dear Wendy,

Thank you for providing public comment regarding USE2023-0027, DR2023-0033, and SEP2023-0039. Your comment will be saved to the public record, forwarded to the applicant, and considered in the review of the project.

Your concerns about tree removal, building design, traffic, geology, and construction impacts are duly noted and will be studied in the review of the project.

To note, Tranpso Group has submitted a memorandum analyzing traffic impacts related to the proposed building addition. Per their findings, "The overall student enrollment falls under what is allowable in the conditional use permits and enrollment is anticipated to remain the same. The expansion of Robin Hall will allow Franklin Academy to function more effectively for the existing student enrollment and would accommodate shifting 45 students from Markel Hall to Robin Hall. Given traffic and trip generation is driven by the number of students the volume of overall traffic is not anticipated to change; however, there would be some shifts in traffic from Markel Hall to Robin Hall as outlined in the trip generation section."

Additionally, Geotest Services Inc has been hired to analyze and prepare a geotechnical report for review under the required Critical Area Permit. Preliminary review of Geotest's findings/conclusions are that the risk of subsidence is low in this area.

The City appreciates your participation in the development review process. You will be included as a Party of Record for the project.

Sincerely,

Sara Ullman

Planner II

City of Bellingham Planning and Community Development

210 Lottie Street

Bellingham, WA 98225

Phone: 360-778-8366

Email: scullman@cob.org



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From: wwwendy <dustinthewendy@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 15, 2024 1:44 PM
To: Ullman, Sara C. <scullman@cob.org>
Subject: Fwd: Franklin Academy's Project

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: **wwwendy** <dustinthewendy@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Jan 26, 2024 at 3:33 PM
Subject: Franklin Academy's Project
To: <scullman@cob.or>

To whom it may concern,

I am absolutely opposed to this project.

I feel this PRIVATE business/school is asking too much from the public/neighborhood surrounding it. Unlike a public school or business we are being asked to make sacrifices for something the majority of us WILL NOT have access to nor be able to utilize.

I have lived in the area for 20 years and so recall when they built the first expansion (big new building on Victor). I still very clearly remember being awakened before 8 am by the ungodly sound of the foundation beams being pounded into the ground; it felt like an earthquake. I can't imagine that intense pounding is helpful for an area mapped with coal mine hazards. Sure, they had a permit to do this (found that shocking in a residential neighborhood) but some consideration of the time would have been the neighborly way to behave. My attempt to get them to use reason found me in a confrontation with the construction site manager and cost me dearly.

Since they've been there they have consistently been oblivious to the noise complaints of their neighbors when they have events that go into the evenings.

The increased traffic, cars speeding through our neighborhood and fumes from idling cars is surely felt and not appreciated.

Something in this proposal doesn't add up. Why would a business spend such sums of money if they don't intend to grow to recoup said expenses? I truly do not believe they will stick to this. Perhaps they grew their enrollment first so as to avoid this concern and now want us to allow them to expand. Whatever the facts may be I feel they need to get creative and adapt to what they've created without asking the neighborhood to "pay" any more.

In this new plan they intend to remove mature trees important to the neighborhood appeal and mitigation of above mentioned excessive automobile traffic; not to mentioned holding the ground below more in place and helping secure it's integrity.

Replacing beautiful old trees with new ones is not an equal exchange. It will take 30+ years for them to achieve the benefit these trees provide.

My other concerns are

1) The new addition will NOT be compatible with the essential character of the neighborhood, it will overpower it, especially when you consider the other building. It feels like a takeover of the community.

2) It COULD be detrimental to the community if it causes a sinkhole. I have personal experience with sink holes; my childhood home was lost to one.

3) The school already does not add to the general health, safety and welfare of our neighborhood since MOST of us are simply burdened by it (Private school which from what I observe serves predominantly persons outside of our neighborhood)

4) As I referenced above the loss of old trees replaced by new paved parking spaces (LOTS of them) is not scenic and destroys the natural beauty of our old neighborhood. It will also add to more heat. Not a good idea in our current climate challenges. TREES matter and serve us well. More asphalt does not.

I see no way that we are supposed to benefit from the this project.

I see a summer filled with noise, and MORE NOISE. I see the sadness of old trees in which I daily watch birds and squirrels living their lives in being destroyed. I see dust (possibly hazardous) being stirred up. And all this so that a PRIVATE school can make their place nicer. And I'll reiterate, I don't believe this kind of money would be being spent without the intent to grow. It doesn't seem like a fair exchange.

I truly hope that this city that I love will not simply cow to \$ and ignore the concerns of the people of the Birchwood/Columbia neighborhood.

Thank you so much for listening and for your time.

Sincerely,

Wendy