



Rev. Sarah N. Klaassen, Pastor

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February 22, 2021

Dear Mayor and City Council Members,

On behalf of the Rock Bridge Christian Church Board and Social Justice Team, we are writing to you about plans to develop the property at the Northeast corner of the intersection of Green Meadows Dr. and Green Meadows Circle. Our church has agreed to sign on to the neighbors' protest petition for the following reasons:

Part of our church's mission is to help shape a Columbia that embraces diversity, removes obstacles to economic equity and calls on our church community to lead in these efforts. Our church's commitment to the joyful welcome of all means that we must genuinely work toward including all within our community as well. As a partner with Missouri Faith Voices, we have also made a commitment to their Moral Agenda stating that "*We envision a community where all people have equitable access to safe, comfortable, affordable housing.*" Ultimately, if we hope to address inequity, we must address our affordable housing shortage.

We support the goals of the Columbia Imagined plan, which states specific strategies to support diverse and inclusive housing options, including promotion of affordable housing. We support Columbia's own Strategic Plan, which calls for helping low-moderate income, first-time homebuyers purchase a home. It also calls for increasing the stock of affordable, energy efficient homes.

We hold no specific disagreement with the developer or the design of the plan submitted, but we do feel the neighbors have made a strong argument in asking that the zoning change from R1 to PD be denied because it does not support the major stated objective of the PD to provide required amenities or benefits that help achieve the goals of the Columbia Imagined plan, most notably Goal #4 "*Provides an opportunity to address key issues facing Columbia.*" No consideration has been given for creating inclusive or truly affordable housing. Nor does it address the need to reduce the growing number of cost burdened renters/owners in Columbia.

We believe there is an opportunity for the developer and the community to work together to evaluate options, address neighborhood concerns and meet the stated goals and moral obligations of the City, and that you - as the City Council - have the opportunity to lead the developer and community in working together toward these goals.

Respectfully,

Mary Kathleen Brown
Board Moderator

Rock Bridge Christian Church Social Justice Team Co-Chairs: J. Nichols Foster and Rebecca Shaw

C: Green Meadows Neighborhood Association
Greenbriar Trail Ridge Neighborhood Association