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May 2, 2005

Dear Jefferson Avenue Neighbor (as listed to the right),

Here are several updates on the Nelson Meadow subdivision proposal:

Requests for Public Records

- My Freedom of Information Act requests are still pending, with a week's extension as permitted by the statute. I have already been denied copies of the engineering drawings by both the Village and the developer. I have another meeting with a Village attorney on Tuesday, May 3rd.

Demolition

- According to Mitch VendenBos, the Village's assigned Code Enforcement Officer, demolition of the Nelson home is scheduled for Tuesday, May 3rd, and no orange construction fence will be required because they propose to demolish the home and fill in the hole in one day. In the meantime he has persuaded the developer to maintain the silt fence and fill the stump holes along Jefferson Avenue.

Web Site

- I have begun to accumulate my photos, documents, and links on an Internet web site (<http://www.nelsonmeadow.com/neighbors>), and you are welcome to have space on it for your own materials, and even email addresses.

Village Plan Process

- I met this morning with Mr. Keith Sbiral, the Village's Director of Planning and Community Development. He described the review and approval process, which will require public hearing before the Plan Commission (probably in early June) and then two meetings of the Village Council. The development proposal is still under staff review within the Village, and Mr. Sbiral was agreeable to accepting constructive input from the neighbors over the next several weeks. Although he could give no assurance that the neighbors' recommendations would be incorporated in the staff report, I took his invitation to be positive.

Recommendations

1. Collect your ideas about issues that are important to you – as soon as possible this week.
2. A small group draft a set of priorities based on your input, and circulate for feedback and agreement – this week.
3. Meet to discuss strategy, whether it is better to take each issue forward to the Village's Planning staff now or wait until public hearings before the Commission in June; we could decide on a strategy to take some issues forward and hold others for later – this weekend.
4. Compose a constructive one-page letter to the Village on each issue we decide to take forward, circulate for comments, and then get all of us to sign the final version – goal to deliver these letters to the Village by Friday, May 13th. Meet with Mr. Sbiral to present them.
5. Follow-up in force at the Plan Commission hearings and Village Council meetings in June.