

To:
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Fw: FN Important Mtg this Thursday

----- Forwarded by Nicole C Oliver/mayor/cob on 02/13/2012 03:37 PM -----

From: "Fairhaven Neighbors" <Fairhaven_Neighbors@mail.vresp.com>
To: noliver@cob.org
Date: 02/12/2012 06:19 PM
Subject: FN Important Mtg this Thursday

Dear Fairhaven Neighbors and Friends,

This Thursday, February 16th, at 6:30 PM, come to City Hall and City Council Chambers for an important meeting and comment session for our Fairhaven Neighborhood and Urban Village Plan (FNUVP). This will be an excellent opportunity to hear a staff presentation of the plan and where we are now, and then an opportunity to speak on the record, if you have any comments to make about the new proposals. Here is Nicole Oliver's exact wording on the meeting announcement from her email of Jan 23rd:

4. An additional Public Input Session will be held Thursday, February 16th, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., Council Chambers. This session will be recorded, and provides an opportunity for stakeholders to give feedback on the Draft Neighborhood and Urban Village Plan, Draft Design Standards, Draft Development Regulations, and Draft Design Review Process posted on the City website for public review on December 21st, 2011. Staff will provide a brief overview of the various plans and proposals, with the remainder of the meeting spent listening to the public and answering questions.

This is Vince again, and here I'm going to give some editorial comment that you may ignore or run with:

While I and many of your Fairhaven Neighbors Board Members think this new plan and regulations are an excellent and huge improvement over our current 1980 document, and we thank the City for working on this difficult project, we are quite concerned that the abandonment of our 35' height limits in the Commercial Core in favor of 56' and the allowance of 66' in the Influence Areas will have a major negative impact on our historic and walkable district. We wrote a letter to that effect on January 5, 2012 and said "We believe tall buildings should not be allowed to overshadow the Historic District and so we suggest a return to the 35 foot height limit in the Historic Commercial Core, and that this area be expanded to include the blocks north of Mill Ave and east of 12th Street and north of Harris Ave. And we request that the Historic Influence area be limited to a 45 foot height."

You can read this letter in its entirety, as well as other correspondences from the last two months, on our website, www.fairhavenneighbors.org

You can also go to the city's www.cob.org and go to the services tab to find the planning department's extensive page with links to all of Fairhaven's relevant planning documents and comments since last spring.

The other important thing to understand is that after this meeting and after reviews and suggestions and recommendations for approval by various commissions, such as Transportation (they meet again on Tuesday, Valentine's Day), a new version of the FNUVP will be edited and submitted thirty days prior to the Planning Commission's meeting and Public Hearing, April 19th. That starts the official legal process, leading to presentation of the final document to City Council, possibly by June or July of this year. You will have a chance to comment then too, but wouldn't it be great if our comments this week helped create the edits that we want for a 'perfect' plan, so later on, we can just speak out for approval

Of course, you might rather tune in to the Grammy's tonight instead of clicking on the websites, which I'm planning on doing too, but at least, come to Thursday's meeting downtown and learn first hand what changes are in store for our fair Fairhaven. Your opinion might be the deciding factor. You never know.

Email me at vbiciunas@comcast.net if you want to car-pool on Thursday, or call 671-1559.

Vince

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