

Re: Support of Appellant to the Pacific Baptist Church expansion (at 3332 Magnolia Avenue) planning commission decision

Dear Mayor and City Councilmembers:

We at Wrigley is Going Green, a grassroots neighborhood environmental organization, feel that the above project in it's current configuration is too large and not sustainable for the community. The existing church was small in scale for a reason, it was always meant to be a neighborhood church serving those living in the immediate community. See the attached photos of the church in the neighborhood.

At the planning commission meeting we heard many reasons why the church is good for the neighborhood and therefore should be allowed to expand. These reasons do not address the negative environmental impact a project of this size, that is allowed to have minimal parking on site, will have on the surrounding neighborhood.

Since it is now being allowed to grow from a local neighborhood church to a commuter church, the increase in diesel exhaust in the already overextended "diesel death zone" will be an unfortunate by-product of this expansion as well as the increased noise pollution that it will entail. The hearts and lungs of this areas residents should not have to be exposed to more.

The church already has shown a disregard for the neighborhood by using its buses on our small streets when they could be using the major thoroughfares such as Willow. One of our members has had direct contact with the church on this matter and yet it still occurs even to this day.

Can an environmental impact report be required before the project proceeds?

Being an organization that saves and plants trees, we are also concerned that the mature trees surrounding the building will be removed due to construction. The church's plan is to replace these trees with palm trees which is not beneficial to the air quality nor will they provide any shade to the neighborhood. We suggest having the church replace the existing trees with large mature trees that will develop a canopy that will also visually reduce the massive size of the proposed building. See attached photos.

Another concern is the prospect that the current church is next on the chopping block, they have stated that once they finish this project, they plan to remove that one as well. Any chance of this beautiful site being there for the next generation is gone and so is it's history. The Church has recently done a superb job of upgrading the original church building. As it stands now the church is in scale with the neighborhood and is visually appealing.

This church has moved many times, as it has expanded through the years, so there is no guarantee that they won't move again and then this quaint community will be left with an oversized structure with insufficient parking.

Please take into consideration our concerns before you approve the project. Our preference is that you have the project minimized in scale so it can continue to fit within the surrounding community.

Sincerely,
Mauna Eichner
Lee Fukui
Lisa Wibroe



Wrigley is Going Green!

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