

Subject: [SASYNA-Discussions] Olbrich: The "merely well-to-do" squash the Neighbor's Plan
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Olbrich Park Plan: Money worshippers won, again.

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Quality planning and mutual interest lost.

Despite dozens of eloquent speakers who testified as to the importance of the park to a multiplicity of users, the Parks Commission voted 3-2 for the staff plan which sets out to squash many uses in favor of one use.

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The president of the Board of Parks Commissioners declared all those testifying in favor of the more comprehensive, mutual interest plan as holding a "narrow view" and needing to "broaden your perspective." Yes, those are quotes. Exact quotes.

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Yup. It's official: We're just little rednecks in need of a little cultural uplift from our betters.

Even more disappointing than the actual votes were the individuals and organizations who aggressively undercut the work of dedicated folks in the neighborhood, either by action or omission:

-Commonwealth Development (the developers proposing the Arts Incubator) failed to support the neighborhood's plan (which, btw, strongly supported the Arts Incubator), and instead, spoke in favor of the city's plan which provides for oceanic levels of parking. We now know just how, ahem, "sustainable" this arts incubator will be.

-Dick Wagner--OBS's flak--took the straw man tack in his description of the efforts of hard working--volunteering--neighbors. It didn't matter to Mr. Wagner that almost to a person, everyone supporting the Neighbor's Plan over the city's plan complimented OBS's efforts, almost in worshipful tones. It didn't matter to him that most even supported the expansion envisioned by the Neighbors' Plan. It didn't matter to him that the Neighbor's Plan compensated Olbrich acre for acre for their purchase of the Garver site. It didn't matter to him that OBS would be spared the expense of demolishing and remediating the Garver Building. It didn't matter to him that the Neighbor's Plan obviated the dilemma posed by the railroad bisecting the property. Nope, that just wasn't enough for Mr. Wagner. He still felt the victim. He whinged & whined that "we [OBS] are getting kicked in the shins." When it comes to rich people, there is no pleasing them. Enough is never enough. And they are always quick to play the class warfare card when the non-rich squeak upon getting squashed. Always. Did you see in the paper today that the government's largesse of cash showered upon the banks, the cash saving their hind-ends, is provoking indignation from the Masters of the Universe on Wall Street? They are whining about the strings attached. Break out the whining folks. Yet another whiny rich person. One can never do

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