

Item 11

Attachment F

Michael Klein

From: Arvin Petros
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2023 11:28 AM
To: Michael Klein
Subject: FW: Comment Regarding Planning Commission Meeting on July 6, 2023

Michael,
See the resident's email below.

I have only forwarded this email to you. I assume, you will forward it to the PC... but if not, I can send it to them all.
Let me know

-Arvin

From: Moran Nachum [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2023 9:26 AM
To: info <info@cityofcalabasas.com>
Subject: Comment Regarding Planning Commission Meeting on July 6, 2023

My name is Moran Nachum and I am a resident of Calabasas.

I am disappointed by the commission's vote against the Caruso story pole proposal during the commission meeting on July 6, 2023.

What should have been a procedural vote ended up in over an hour of wasted time. I do not understand what the dissenting commissioners' aim is in declining Caruso's proposal. In rejecting the proposal, the commissioners would, in the same sentence, herald the Commons as a hub for our city and then go on to decree that the proposed story poles did not express building massing clearly enough or that the community would not engage with the AR technology enough.

This is ridiculous.

The Caruso team has already listened to the commission's concerns in June and adapted their story pole proposal to reflect the commission's feedback. As someone mentioned during the meeting, the story pole vote does not actually impact the Commons expansion proposal in terms of its actual content: how parking will be moved, which buildings will be changed, etc.

What a dissenting vote *does* do, however, is communicate to developers that Calabasas is not a town receptive to them. The Caruso team did everything right: they met with the commission early, they got their feedback, they made adjustments to their plans based on that feedback, and then they sat through another long meeting in which those same commissioners essentially walked back their comments from the prior meeting.

Why would they want to do that again? Why would any developer want to do that?

The commission is right to acknowledge that the Commons is the hub of Calabasas, but it's also an aging mall format that is losing its shine with each year. The Caruso team is trying to help our city by bringing our shopping center into the 21st century, but is instead met with resistance, blocking, and interference at the most banal and procedural steps of the process.

If I was Caruso, I would sell the property to any willing seller and let them deal with this aging property in a town that seems loath to advancement.

Thank you,
Moran

Michael Klein

From: Arvin Petros
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2023 2:11 PM
To: Michael Klein
Cc: Tom Bartlett; Glenn Michitsch; Jaclyn Rackerby
Subject: FW: The Commons at Calabasas, by Caruso, Commons Lane

FYI, want to make sure you see this.

From: Robert Klass <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2023 4:00 PM
To: info <info@cityofcalabasas.com>
Cc: Amy Klass <[REDACTED]>
Subject: The Commons at Calabasas, by Caruso, Commons Lane

To the Honorable City of Calabasas Councilmembers:

We are City of Calabasas residents, and are very disappointed by the City of Calabasas, Planning Commission, vote on July 6, 2023, that denied the Caruso Group's modified proposal for the story pole requirement.

As noted during the Planning Commission meeting, by both the Commissioners, and the Caruso team, The Commons at Calabasas is a very active property, and creating formal story poles would be potentially unsafe and disruptive both to The Commons at Calabasas tenants, and to us guests alike.

The Caruso team was very thoughtful in addressing the Planning Commission's comments and feedback from the first meeting. Not only did Caruso propose an Augmented Reality, (AR), option that includes detailed examples of the building's height and mass, but they have offered to help the Community in navigating this tool with walkthroughs, detailed kiosks, and large billboards.

Following the Commission's request to include a physical representation of the building's height, Caruso included several physical poles that would have bright colored depictions of the building's height. Caruso has been working with our Community extensively for 25 years, and they continue to do so throughout this entire process.

We are very disappointed by this outcome, and hope it will be remedied.

Thank you for your service to our City of Calabasas.

Sincerely,

Robert Klass and Amy Klass

Maricela Hernandez

Subject: FW: Story Pole Discussion - Calabasas Commons

To Calabasas city officials—

I am very disappointed by the Planning Commission's recent vote concerning the story pole concept for the new project being proposed at The Commons at Calabasas.

My family and I live in Calabasas and we visit the Commons frequently. It is more than clear that the traditional story pole process is simply not feasible: it would be a huge construction project just to install the poles and the weights, guide wires, and other infrastructure that would be needed. This would eliminate many parking places, it would be a visual blight, and it would make the experience of visiting the Commons materially worse for many families.

Caruso has proposed a very reasonable alternative that avoids these drawbacks, but still communicates the salient details about their plan using 21st-century technology. Why is this not enough? And why do we want to make it so difficult for Caruso to invest in their 25 year old property? I think this was a poor decision and I hope it will be reconsidered.

Sincerely,

Chamil Hettiarachchi

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