

## Molinar, Tess

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**From:** blackphoot@yahoo.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 2:38 PM  
**To:** Moran, Katherine; Porras, Susana  
**Subject:** Adena Street

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To Whom It May Concern:

So here we go again.....development proposals for an already overly dense street that is ONE block long. What happened to concerns for the folks already living here. Some of the neighbors at the location under consideration have been there for years. Now their dwellings will be raised to make way for condominiums again.

Unfortunately, the leadership of Pasadena (from one decade to the next) has a chronic history of failure to protect the Crown City from over building and destruction of those dwells that gave the city it's historic characteristics. This is not meant to implicate anyone in particular, however, it has been grievous to see height restrictions abandoned, open air space reduced and man-made canyons created all for the sake of development. I never wanted to live amidst high rise buildings and the like. Thus the reason why we chose to settle here in Pasadena. Yet, over the years, there seems to have developed an allergy of some kind against having mountain vistas from the streets of this city without having to make a concerted effort to see them. Once upon a time.....the Rose City, the Crown Jewel of the San Gabriel Valley, slowly became just another cookie cutter development of Los Angeles County.

The notice was posted late in front of property at 351 and our mailing was received at the eleventh hour (nearly a week after the postmarked date of June 3rd) informing us of the proposed development on Adena. We fought this battle some time back. Thankfully, our efforts resulted in a reduction in the zoning for this area. A stay of execution lent itself to the easing of concerns, but I should have never thought this was all over. I take full responsibility for having been asleep while the fox crept into the hen house.

It is my understanding that the "old house" is to be sacrificed, a great example historic landmark district preservation with a hiccup. According to the mailer, there was a Consolidated Design Review approval on March 11, 2020 just as we were being hit with a major health crisis. I am not sure what that approval means nor where this process is at in truth. The meeting set to take place tomorrow, is it for moving chess pieces around on the board?

It was never made crystal clear to me how a landmark district was suppose to be established with a requirement of 2/3 of the residents buying into the idea but only resulting in a jigsaw puzzle. Who knew what about these latest developments and when? Please advise as to the strategy for tomorrow if any. In the meantime, I am going to go back to my files in search of historic information. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Renee

P. S. How do I access the hearing? This is not clear from the mailer. In addition, my efforts to see the agenda at the Hearing Officer link has been futile to date.

There are a number of concerns for me, that I did not flush out in the above correspondence. I will list them beginning first with:

- What happens to the residents living at 351/361 Adena Street, if this project goes forth?
- Who is advocating for these neighbors, many are long time residents?
- If we as a city are concerned about "affordable housing" and homelessness, how does displacing these people, without any or few requirements on those who stand to gain from the development, serve any of us?
- How can the design review process be allowed to go forth quietly, without any notification to the neighborhood directly impacted and be consider just?
- While the plans indicate that the Lewis cottage is to be demolished and potentially, the river rock retaining wall, why is this necessary as both contribute to the overall character of the street. A concerted effort was made in 2005 and 2006 to have this property designated as a historic landmark. The request was ultimately denied, yet the structure still holds merit. Please see: [http://ww2.cityofpasadena.net/councilagendas/2006%20agendas/Jul\\_31\\_06/6B%20CORRESPONDENCE%20FEBRUARY%2027.pdf](http://ww2.cityofpasadena.net/councilagendas/2006%20agendas/Jul_31_06/6B%20CORRESPONDENCE%20FEBRUARY%2027.pdf)
- Is it important to preserve single family and moderately modified mixed use neighborhoods for the overall well being of any given city of our size? I think it is.
- For a street that has seen it's share of mixed uses inappropriately apply, what is our recourse? Is there a forum for at least advocating for "visual" historic preservation?

Again, I am perplexed by the failure of the city to preserve as much of our neighborhoods as possible without infringing upon individual property owners rights. The system seems to be designed to allow for things to slip through the preverbal cracks. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Renee Pierson