

Takeda, Michi

Subject: Opposing vote regarding plan to build on 1145 Arden Rd. as stated for agenda on historic commission presentation To city council on July 5, 2022

From: Eva Friedman [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, July 4, 2022 10:19 PM

To: Keatinge, Robert [REDACTED]

Subject: Opposing vote regarding plan to build on 1145 Arden Rd. as stated for agenda on historic commission presentation To city council on July 5, 2022

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Dear Mr. Keatinge, members of historic preservation committee, and Pasadena council members:

I am writing concerning our strong *opposition* to any further building or landscape modifications (Especially as they negatively impact environmental factors, protection of endangered species during migrating seasons. maintaining vegetation promoting clean sustainable air and quality of life in our community).

Our objection is based in experience to date with 1145 Arden, of three years of construction site noise and workers loud interactions morn to late pm, and environmental impact on neighboring properties.

Of concern is our inability to obtain contact information as needed pertaining to building plan . For example that pertaining to new wire fencing likely in excess height of zoning laws on east side of 1145 property. Also removing a multitude of trees and shrubs throughout especially as it pertains to our propery ... destroying nourishment and habitat for wildlife and endangered migrating birds and butterflies.

existing wildlife, which included passing geese nesting each morning on their way north have disappeared. Almost no bird life remains unless Enticed by food for their survival.

Our objection is evidence based from previous experience with similar proposals regarding building permits and subsequent landscape permits extending beyond duration of construction plans by two or more additional years.

Our objections are based on president of past council permits for destruction on Arden Road of several properties during the past five years.

Several alteratioid and rebuilding have destroyed the character and historic nature of the street.

Arden Road has been a scenic treasure route for the enjoyment of the community in the Caltech area and has housed numerous prominent members of the community throughout the years without similar destruction to the spacious open character of the Street. Promoting neighborly interactions for Mutual benefit safety and welfare.

Zoning Landscape Permits were

adverse to original historic beauty and elegance of the neighborhood, modest environmental impact on wildlife instead Resulting in significant deterioration of quality of life and health of neighbors.

prior projects have taken over three or even four years to complete based on loopholes in city codes for structural vs landscaping permits . (The latter include all Hardscape around the house, including removing vegetation, green space, protection of endangered species by removing valuable enduring bushes from private property without authority, as well as creating a dead zone in a certain area of Arden Road

projects included extensive concrete yards considered part of “landscaping“, with complete destruction of any environmental or health related benefits of living in this area.

1145, the current property under consideration has been under construction for over three years contributing to excessive noise pollution, extending limits of building close to other properties, removing all vegetation conducive to sustaining life of migrating birds, butterflies and local pollinators including honey bees (a well documented example for potential extinction in USA and severely affecting agriculture), Not to mention the destruction of hundreds of nests A bird and other wildlife species

The scenic and historic Uniqueness of Arden Road include homes dating back to 1906 or earlier .

The constant noise during building of property, extensive fencing, removal of vegetation And trees which were part of an existing driveway to the said property of 1145 appears to be in disrepair at this time with no Visible plan for appropriate vegetation and protection of noise pollution.

1145 estate was subdivided in the 1950s. Into seven or more housing lots. the subdivision required easement of properties to promote open green space building over 100 feet away from Public Land on Arden Road

We have been residents in Pasadena For over 40 years and have seen the slow destruction of green space with increasing demolition and or modification of houses by destroying grading of beautiful character of the knolls, which Memorialized, houses built by numerous well-known architects including Wallace Neff among others.

It should be noted that some, purchasers and destroyers of property did not provide honest or intended plans consistent with outcome of venture.

In particular, 1185 Arden Rd. was purchased by a party who claimed the home would be Occupied by purchaser. Neighbors were advised the property would be completed within nine months.

Instead, the property was completely razed Destroying environmental enhancing green space of an extensive garden, with replacement under the guise of landscaping, with extensive concrete yard and reducing vegetation to a minimum, thus exposing the newly created house to excessive heat from the south afternoon sun, and currently affecting abutting property, with heat generated from said concrete. Not only that, trees were not appropriately managed and became inappropriate for the property which consisted of large garden with the trees conducive to protection of wildlife, and especially bees, migrating monarch butterflies, and birds as mentioned above.

The property was flipped after four years of building and severe noise pollution affecting neighbors Quality of life health and property with excessive dust, noise above 70 dB from Grading , Jackhammers, creation of all wooden framing etc for the building exterior, and possibly interior, on site. Also , sawing for all metal rebar for support of concrete structures in the backyard. The latter produced significant metal particle pollution in adjacent properties, resulting in illness of staff and property owner.

Another example of impact on this neighbor was the complete inability to complete revised sustainable landscape plans, having required a several Thousand nonrefundable advance, as well as significant stop work order for completion of Newly painted and updated structure, destroyed by a magnificent dead cedar, landing on the house, destroying garage roof and structure .

It was impossible to paint or implement landscaping after destruction of our private property during four years of building.

in addition, the destruction of roots of the dead tree resulting from new driveways for 1193 and 1195 were directly responsible for the loss of a perfectly managed tree, home to numerous wildlife, unique birds, as well as a number of hummingbird nests.

Further, the cost and extensive repair of damage to the beauty of the architect design of our unique structure, was concurrently altered by the loss of a majestic male specimen dead tree whose beauty embraced our lives and value of our home.

There is no evidence that similar matters may not continue to exist at 1145 which has been under construction (Since it was purchased From an absentee landlord who purchased several houses and left them uninhabited for several years.)

The above reasons Experience and rationale Can be further substantiated if need be to our objection of any further building changes/plans at 1145 Arden Rd.

Thank you for consideration of our concerns.

Best regards,

Eva

Eva Gross Friedman

[REDACTED]

** Please note, all of this building has come with excessive use of gas leaf blower's, contributing to the excessive dust particles throughout the area both on property and more importantly the quality of the air . This is promoted by excessive and unnecessary time spent using blowers to transfer dust into the middle of the public street. It is a well-known fact that emissions from gas blowers have significantly caused pollution in the LA area and suburban areas such as Pasadena.

In this regard, we should be leaders not followers of ordinances to prohibit gas blowers as part of air quality control of Los Angeles County, Noted regularly as having the worst air quality in the United States.

There are many options available to provide gardeners with electric equipment besides funding by local governments. For example areas which are high users, should pull together in a neighborhood, and provide a fund for purchasing electric or appropriate equipment to individual gardeners as well as arrange for contracts with companies. Just to mention a couple. Other options are available contacting websites and or neighboring State , Out of state, and local cities for guidelines.