

Office of the Hearing Examiner

June 12, 2015

Attention: Ms. Cheryl Xanthos, Deputy City Clerk

cdxanthos@redmond.gov

This is a response to the June 3, 2015 Applicant Natural and Built Environments' motion to dismiss Appellant Rosemarie Ives' appeals to both the SEPA DNS and the Technical Committee Approval of a Site Plan entitlement.

I disagree with the applicant's assertions in I. Introduction; II. Statements of Fact; and III. Argument A and B. They have no basis. The City's Appeal Application Form, Page 4, states that any person who has commented on an application has standing to appeal. In my appeal, Attachment 1, Paragraph 1, I state that I would be adversely affected. I commented extensively on many aspects of this application of grave concern that are detrimental to me and to others in the community.

As a founding charter member of the Redmond Historical Society going back to 1999 and a member of the Nokomis club for over ten years, the demolition of Redmond's first library building, the historically significant Nokomis building, is a permanent loss for me of a significant tie to our community's story, our roots. The loss of the building, the physical place where a group of women, in the depth of the Great Depression, accomplished something remarkable—building the town's first library on land donated by one of its members and just fourteen years after women got the right to vote! This building "houses" the legacy of the Nokomis club in a very physical, visual way. To me this building symbolizes the power of what a group of determined and committed women can accomplish even in a time of adversity and serves as a reminder to me, to other women and to people, what is possible with vision, fortitude, and resiliency. This building at this original site is the place is where it happened. It is not hypothetical. It is not conjecture.

The fact is that in the applicant's proposed action, the Nokomis Building will be demolished as stated on Page 2, line 6 of the applicant's motion to dismiss Ives' appeals. I am aggrieved by the demolition of this building in many ways.

Although of vernacular architecture (City of Redmond Historic Properties inventories, 1999 and 2005), this historic building goes beyond aesthetics: it has a story, a meaning that reminds us of who we are, where we've been. It has character and distinctiveness. This building is an important "public" space in two ways: as the library and as a community meeting space. Over the past five months, I have heard some of its stories that are deeply personal and touching. It was a place that mattered to people then. It was a place of community gatherings and collective pride then. And the same is true today. Our ancestors and their stories are present in that building and help to guide us forward. The Nokomis building is "authentic" Redmond. It is part of Redmond's soul. I and others will be deprived of the presence of the Nokomis building at its original site if the project is allowed to proceed. It is a loss of a tangible, physical reminder of what Redmond was in the 1930's and beyond, who were its people, what they cared about, what actions they took for the betterment of Redmond in the depth of the Great Depression and for decades after. This all goes away for me with the demolition of this building.

Historic preservation is personally extremely important to me. I believe strongly that an indicator of a great community is how it preserves, honors, and cherishes its "roots," starting with its built environment, its buildings. As a result, during my tenure as mayor of Redmond, 1992-2007, I advocated and proposed a historic and cultural resources initiative that resulted in Ordinance 2080 being adopted in 2000 and a new chapter in the Comprehensive Plan on the Preservation of Historic and Cultural Resources.

I am personally harmed when the City disregards its adopted policies on historic preservation.

I am harmed every day when the city approves another rental apartment development that negatively impacts me by more traffic congestion and slower responses from emergency service providers. I walk

extensively in downtown. Buildings with columns in the middle of sidewalks pose a threat of injury to me and others.

As a former mayor, the people of the community still have expectations of me. They believe that I am influential, extremely knowledgeable about issues and public processes. They know from experience, from my track record, that I care about Redmond, its history, and especially about them. This appeal is about my personal loss and is a “moral imperative” for me. I know that this project is not in the community’s best interest and there are many ways in which individuals including myself will be harmed by this project. For me not to appeal would harm me in an immeasurable way – my integrity would be in question and no action would be an abandonment of my moral duty as a “Mayor Emerita.”

As a member of Nokomis, as a lifetime member of the Redmond Historical Society, as a woman, as a former mayor, I am compelled to be a steward of Redmond’s story. It is my civic duty. If the building is demolished, I will be forever unable to carry out this responsibility regarding the Nokomis Building and its legacy. And that is a serious loss-- not hypothetical, not conjecture.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rosemarie Ives". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Rosemarie Ives