

September 14, 2021

Dear Elm Grove Village Board and fellow Elm Grove Residents

I am Rita Denny and live at 1451 Fairhaven Blvd. My husband and I started building our home in 1953 and moved in around March, 1954. While we were building, we rented an apartment in Wauwatosa.

At that time most of what is currently considered The Village of Elm Grove did not exist. Caroline Heights, Marian Heights didn't have homes, we had farms. Fairhaven Blvd., my street, ended at Walnut and did not go through to North Avenue. I was moving to raise me family in a farm community. The only thing constant in life is change. If there was not change, many of the current residents would not be living here.

I have two proposals to give my opinion on. I would rather Option 1 but would like to see the historic buildings (or one of them) be converted into senior housing. I know there is interest in this. My dear friend, Kathie Daily, who lived across from me, would tell me that she hoped someday the two of us would move in as neighbors in such housing. I know former village residents who moved out because they wanted to rent. I wonder why so many in the village are against renters and spit it out like a dirty word. Am I the only one who has been a renter in my life? What is wrong with renters?

Regarding the development I hear complaints regarding lot size, Elm Grove standard, design. What is Elm Grove standard? Farm Fields? Indian Hills? What? We have a diversity of lot sizes, home sizes, styles, etc. I actually appreciate that not everything is the same.

I hear complaints about what the traffic might be like and how it is already heavy. I might suggest that 124th street put in an underpass by the railroad tracks and have another exit to Bluemound. I understand that people on 124th St might object. We all buck change. But if I could accept my street open through North Avenue, others can bend too, for the good of the whole.

I actually look forward to getting the tax relief because the village can finally tax this property. That will go a long way to help the current residents and make whatever will be needed to welcome our new neighbors. I also hope that I may finally be able to access city water.

If Elm Grove is truly charming, then maybe we should start acting that way.

Best Wishes,

Rita Denny 