

August 22, 2021

Neil Palmer, President
Village of Elm Grove

Dear Mr. Palmer,

I am writing regarding the Mandel proposal for the development of SSND property. I am in agreement with many other citizens in our Village who oppose the project. I believe their reasons for opposition are legitimate.

However, I have a huge concern that I have rarely heard mentioned: the impact of the project on the environment. The project will destroy most of the trees much like Mandel did at the Mount Mary Site where approximately 500 trees were removed! Our earth needs trees and areas that will absorb rainfall. We are in the midst of a serious climate crisis and it is important for all elected officials to save as many trees and green spaces as possible, in other words to protect the environment - not destroy it. We need everyone to do their part!

A much better alternative for the SSND property is for the Village to purchase it and preserve it as a green space. Wouldn't you be proud to have your legacy as Village President be, "I took a stand for the environment, I voted for a prairie rather than an unneeded and unwanted development."

I encourage you to read

- Journal Sentinel article "Wisconsin's prairies shine in late summer" by Chelsey Lewis (August 22, 2021).
- The World in a Grain by Vince Beiser, this book describes how short the supply of sand is in our world and how we should be conserving instead of using it for unnecessary building.
- Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall Kimmerer, which includes indigenous wisdom, scientific knowledge and the teachings of plants. "Imagine if a developer had to ask the goldenrod, the meadowlarks and the monarch butterflies for permission to take their land." P. 179

Finally, if you decide to approve the Mandel Project, it must be without TIF financing. If the project can't proceed and stand on its own without a tax incentive, it should not be approved!

Thanks for listening.



Jan Cronin
13250 Wrayburn Rd.
Elm Grove

CC. Members of the Board of Trustees