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To : Appleton Common Council

MAR - 6 2019

From: Ronald J. and Carol I Mason

CITY OF APPLETON  
COMMUNITY/ECON DEVELOPMENT

Re: rezoning of South Lawe Street and East Newberry Street

We would like to object to this proposal and point out the unsuitability of the scope of this project for so small an area. Although this little section of Appleton may not have been particularly within the concern of city government, it is a most valuable open space, a true community resource for many citizens. It is where people congregate to park in order to walk the Newberry trail, to watch the river, to park for the purpose of fishing the pond before the canal, to meet and greet. It is a constant place of rendezvous for so many ---- families come there to meet others, walkers and runners come, friends and even informal parties occur there. Even at night, that little place is used by people. Where else may people park in order to have access to the river right in the middle of the city?

The description of the proposed development is astonishing, a true example of future urban blight on the river shore. What it will mean for the neighborhood, for increased traffic, more congestion, more noise, and destruction of privacy in a once quiet and peaceful place can only be viewed with apprehension.

We can only urge the city to reject this proposal and try to save at least a small piece of remaining open space for public use. The banks of the Fox River have been so despoiled in recent years that some concern should be shown for the river's character and for continued public access.

As property owners adjacent to this proposed development, we can be seen as very concerned participants in what happens in our area. Appleton needs to be wary of degrading what is already present: development should not be the only value.

Ronald J. Mason  
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