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Comments on Item #37 - Appeal by St. John's Church for 710/712 Walnut

1 message

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To: Betty Jo Mahan <bettyjo.mahan@knoxmpc.org>

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Hello Commissioners,

I urge you to consider a postponement of item #37 to give St. John's Church, Knox Heritage and other interested parties additional time to consider proposals for continued use of the buildings at 710 and 712 Walnut Street.

The historic fabric of our downtown is something that makes Knoxville very special to me, and to any visitors that I bring downtown. They like Market Square, they like all of the history, they enjoy seeing the Woolworth Building, Tennessee Theater and Bijou Theater when we walk around. However, there aren't many comments made on newer structures like the City/County Building, First Tennessee Tower, and I've never heard somebody tell me how gorgeous the asphalt looks for the surface parking lot.

It's interesting - five years ago my grandfather told me that I should just bulldoze down the old farm house, and maybe we would one day put a small house back in its place on the hill. I convinced him we shouldn't, and instead that we should do something to try and save the old place. In 2011 the MPC voiced its concurrence when they honored us with the MPC Excellence Award for Historic Rehabilitation. My grandfather is now the first to say that he was wrong and is glad I talked him out of it.

Perhaps St. John's will eventually feel the same way that my grandfather did. I urge you to postpone item #37 to give St. John's and other parties a bit more time to consider it, especially if there isn't an impending crisis to the church to continue to keep the structures intact.

--Kevin

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