

Molly McGuire

From: Carin Jacobson <csulman@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2026 3:12 PM
To: Council
Cc: Planning Commission; Alison Van Gorp; Deb Estrada
Subject: Support Proposed Zoning Change for the SJCC

To the Members of the Planning Commission:

I'm writing to urge your support to amend the Comprehensive Plan to change the designation of the SJCC property from single-family to commercial.

For me, the J has never simply been a building—it has always been my second home. I first came to the J as a preschooler. I went to camp there, participated in high school programming, and later returned as an adult to work out and stay connected to my community. Now, I've had the privilege of watching my own children grow up at the J, creating memories and friendships that I know will last a lifetime, just as mine have.

Some of my closest friends today are people I met at the J decades ago. The same is true for my children. The J is where relationships are built across generations. It is where traditions are celebrated, identity is strengthened, and Jewish pride is nurtured in a welcoming, joyful environment. It is where our entire community gathers to celebrate milestones, support one another through difficult times, and simply be together.

The J has been serving the Mercer Island community, not just the Jewish community, for over 55 years. I respectfully urge the Planning Commission to align the comprehensive plan and land use maps to reflect that reality and ensure the J can continue to service our community and thrive on Mercer Island. Doing so is an investment not just in a property, but in the future of our community. It will ensure that future generations of children can find the same lifelong friendships, sense of belonging, and deep connection to Jewish life that my family and I have found at the J. The J has been my home away from home for my entire life. I hope it will continue to be that home for generations of families yet to come.

Respectfully,

Carin Jacobson