

Molly McGuire

From: Laura Jantos <laura.jantos@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2026 8:26 AM
To: Planning Commission; Alison Van Gorp; Deb Estrada; Council
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. After a long and protracted process with much technicality that frankly, I don't understand, this seems to be the only way to allow the SJCC to continue to serve the Mercer Island community and the broader Jewish community.

I've used the JCC since I was a kid in the 70s, when it was a training facility for the Sonics! When my husband and I moved back to MI in 2003, the SJCC's great preschool (and MISD schools) was a big part of our decision. Both of our kids attended preschool at the J as it was the only full-time option on MI that also had tons of enrichment programs. As a dual-working family, our kids could be cared for and have access to swim lessons, karate, gardening, and lots of other activities. We've attended and supported tons of broader community events there as well such as MISD Band Boosters auctions.

The J has been serving the Mercer Island community – as a community center for all - for over 55 years. It is badly in need of remodel and modernization. During our travels, we've found that most other communities similar to Mercer Island have much nicer facilities than our SJCC.

Please align the comprehensive plan and land use maps to reflect that reality and ensure the J can continue to serve our community and thrive on Mercer Island for the next 55 years.

Respectfully,

Laura Jantos
(206) 484-8804