

Molly McGuire

From: Lisa Kranseler <lisak@wsjhs.org>
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2026 11:27 AM
To: Planning Commission; Alison Van Gorp; Deb Estrada; Council
Cc: Amy Lavin
Subject: Comments on behalf of the SJCC to amend the Comprehensive Plan to change the SJCC property designation

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Dear Planning Commission and Members,

As the long-time director of the Washington State Jewish Historical Society (WSJHS, 20+ years), I want to write in support of amending the designation of the SJCC property from single family to commercial.

Historically speaking, the SJCC is a significant center of Jewish life in for our community as well as for the entire Mercer Island and surrounding communities. The sense of comradery and community that is lived within its walls on a daily basis cannot be understated. It is time to step up for the next generation to ensure that this building get the renovation it so badly needs to continue to serve the community at large for the next 50 years.

We also have the oral history interview of Samuel Stroum.

[Stroum \(Samuel\) interview - Samuel Stroum interview, audio \(Cassette 1A\) - Oral History Collection - University of Washington Digital Collections](#)

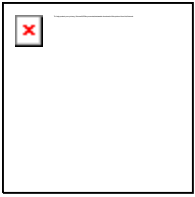
Please see his transcript at: [Stroum \(Samuel\) interview - Samuel Stroum interview, transcript - Oral History Collection - University of Washington Digital Collections](#) On page 83, of the 99 page transcript, Sam Stroum stated that” everyone had to feel a part of saving the JCC, even if they gave a dollar.” He truly meant that everyone matters, a community effort, and at this point it is your vote will make a difference.

Being the Director of the WSJHS, has taught me that **there are certain times that history calls for courage and commitment. This is that time.** Please make this happen now so that the SJCC can thrive with the facility that is long past due for improvement. The WSJHS also had its offices at the SJCC for 5 years (2018-2023) and we were able to personally witness that values that were promoted amongst staff, volunteers, members and the next generation of our community’s leaders – our youth!

Please feel free to use this email at the hearing, that I am sorry not to be able to attend. I would also be available for any questions or comments.

Lisa

Lisa Kranseler, WSJHS Executive Director Emerita



Every day, you make history happen!

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