

Molly McGuire

From: Marla Goldberg <MarlaG@sjcc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2026 2:53 PM
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.

I've been coming to the J since 1969, when the doors opened. I grew up in this building, participating in many activities and experiencing firsthand the importance of building community. My kids attended the J starting at very early ages. This place provided me with a safe space for my children so I could work. My kids formed friendships and relationships that still exist today at ages 24 and 26. They feel this place is theirs—that they are always welcome and have a positive, familiar, and welcoming space to connect, be Jewish, and always feel part of a community.

My husband was in the first preschool class ever held at the J, and his family also grew up here. Both of our families have used the J for a multitude of activities over the last 57 years, and we hope to continue to have the JCC here for generations to come.

The J has been serving the Mercer Island community—as a community center for all—for over 55 years. The city should change the zoning to reflect what this place has been operating as for all that time. 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.

Also, allow them to make the building accessible. The idea that zoning laws have hindered them from making the building accessible to people with disabilities is so sad. They want to make it right, but the current zoning is not allowing those changes to happen. How is there still no elevator? It should have been done years ago!

There is so much misinformation circulating, and it continues to spread without anyone correcting it. People are making things up instead of trying to find out the truth. Someone mentioned that it appears the proposal to address traffic is simply to redirect it onto adjacent streets. They even suggest looking at the plans, yet the plans do not support that statement or show any redirection of traffic onto neighborhood streets.

Please change the zoning to allow the J to continue being a community center for anyone who wants to be part of it, Jewish or not. The amount of good that is being done there is incredible. Let them keep doing it.

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