

Molly McGuire

From: Nicola Thornton <chockelet@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2026 9:30 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.

The J has become a big part of my life over the past 4 years, allowing me to connect to the wider community as I work towards my own personal betterment. I discovered the exercise classes at the J through a friend while looking for avenues for weight loss. As someone who struggled to find enjoyment in exercise her whole life, the J's classes provided not only the guidance I needed to stick to a consistent plan, but an encouraging community that enabled me to, through commitment and perseverance, lose over 50lbs and return to a much healthier version of myself.

But these classes are not the only reason I value the J. While the exercise classes the J provides have been stellar for my personal health, the community that the J provides has been even greater. Through the J, I have had the privilege of meeting the amazing people of Mercer Island and greater King County. I'm not a particularly social person, and after moving to the Seattle area with my family, I struggled to make new connections out here. But through the community that the J provides, I've found a great place that I feel at home, with friendly people with whom I can connect. It's done so much for me, I can only imagine how much it has helped the wider Mercer Island community.

The J has been serving the Mercer Island community – as a community center for all - for over 55 years. 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.

Regards

Nicola Thornton