

Molly McGuire

From: Owen Smith <mr.owen.smith@owensmith.biz>
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2026 11:27 PM
To: Planning Commission; Alison Van Gorp; Council; Deb Estrada
Subject: Recommendation to amend Comprehensive Plan to change SJCC property designation to Commercial

Hello,

My name is Owen Smith and I urge the Mercer Island planning commission to amend the Comprehensive Plan to change the designation of the Stroum Jewish Community Center property from single family to commercial.

I am a Mercer Island resident and I currently serve on the board of the SJCC. I'm grateful for the community that I found at The J since I moved here three years ago. Both of my kids attended preschool at the Schwartz Early Childhood School, learned to swim at the JCC Pool, played basketball in the gym and enjoyed camp for several weeks this summer as well as last. There's no other community gathering place on Mercer Island with such a variety of valuable resources that is as readily accessible and as welcoming to newcomers such as myself. I'm not Jewish, and neither are many of the families who I've gotten to know through all my activities at The J — truly all are welcome here. For these reasons I recommend amending the property designation to ease the administrative burden and expense of maintaining and improving this vital community resource.

Best Regards,

Owen Smith