

Molly McGuire

From: Ricca Poll <riccapihapoll@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2026 12:37 PM
To: Planning Commission; Alison Van Gorp; Deb Estrada; Council
Subject: It is time to rezone the SJCC Now

Hi,

My name is Ricca Piha Poll. I have lived on the island for over 22 years. I grew up in Bellevue but Mercer Island JCC was a big part of my childhood life. I attended preschool there in the early 70s, went to summer camp throughout my early childhood years (still friends with many of the people I met there), and attended youth group programming in my teens. As I walk through the center I do not see a lot of significant change since I was young. My children also grew up at the J. They both went to preschool there, summer camp and the same youth program I did. Some of their closest friends are from preschool at the SJCC. The J feels like home to my family. The problem is it NEEDS a great deal of improvements to be a constant center for our generations to come.

One big piece for me that is troublesome is that the J cannot become ADA compliant without a rezone. Mercer Island claims to care about EVERYONE, however limiting access to the entire building without going outside to get from one level to other is unacceptable. Unfortunately my sister died at the age of 44, but because of her cancer treatments she was in a wheelchair towards the end of her life. I think about how people like my sister could not drop off their child at the preschool and then go downstairs for programming without going outside. THAT IS NOT OK!

It is shameful that it is taking the city council this long to rezone such a valuable institution to our island. The time is NOW to amend the Comprehensive Plan to change the designation of the SJCC property from single family to a commercial use as it is currently being used.

My hope is that you see the importance of the changes that need to happen to the SJCC and you stop putting the off what needs to be done today.
Please rezone NOW!

Thank you for taking the time to read,
Ricca Piha Poll