Molly McGuire

From: Jean Klein <jeankanklein@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 16, 2026 1:01 PM
To: Molly McGuire
Subject: Support for proposed zoning change for SJCC

To Molly McGuire, Senior Planner,

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 SJCC has been serving Mercer Island as a community center for all - for over 55 years. The J welcomes everyone, no matter what their ethnicity, age, etc. More than 1/3 of Mercer Island belongs to the J, however you don't need be a member to take advantage of its programs and facilities.

On a personal level, when I moved to Mercer Island from the Midwest in 1974, I didn't know anyone and there weren't many avenues for people to make friends. We immediately joined the J and have been members ever since. Our children were in daycare, preschool, camp, sports, continuing education, etc. and the J has been a focal point in all of our lives. The J has provided a foundation for life and, by the values that the J promotes, to become good citizens of the world. All 4 of our children are productive members of society and I attribute much of that to their lifelong connection to the J. Our grandchildren also have been immersed in the J. And for me, the J has been a place of instant warmth and connection throughout my whole life.

The current building is basically the same one that was there in 1974. At this point it is well past the life span for just "fixes". It needs a building that is up to code, ADA accessible and realigned to meet the shared goals of the J, our neighbors, and the Mercer Island community. Very much thought and planning have gone into the proposed plan keeping consideration of neighbors and community at the forefront.

Changing the land use designation will not in any way change the daily operations of the SJCC. Any future changes in configuration will go through design review and significant public processes. The J will be subject to the same land use protocol as similarly zoned properties including its next door neighbor, Mercer Island City Hall. 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. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jean Klein Sent from my iPhone