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Habitat project wrong in scope, location

Cathy Lund

This is in response to Candace Mayo's Soapbox on May 4.

Candace Mayo's statement: "I am weary fighting NIMBY (Not in My Backyard) phenomeno

It should be a tiring job convincing our neighbors that their sweat equity holds no value. From "Innovation Island doesn't fit the chosen lot." Our concerns have been ignored, swept under the rug like a terrible group of "not in my backyard" neighbors. We have stated at every meeting that we just do not want the 27-plus-unit townhome development they want to build.

Yes, Fort Collins does provide preferential treatment to affordable housing projects, or as "community appropriate" housing. Affordable housing requests are placed on an accelerated approval process and Land Use Code standards are relaxed, giving specific allowance to affordable housing units per acre for LMN zone is eight; for affordable housing, it's 12 units per acre. Landscaping and income housing. In addition to the LUCs automatically given to affordable housing, Habitat has requested additional LUCs.

The \$51,000 of taxpayers' money allocated to Habitat for lot acquisition that Gabe Lowe requested by Community Planning and Environmental Services relating to the 2005-2006 city budget: this particular lot acquisition but was given to Habitat for land acquisition. One would question the dollars for special projects and also adjudicating in a quasijudicial setting during the appeal. Is this a conflict of interest?

As to why Lowe was not at the neighborhood meeting and didn't speak at the Planning and Zoning lives just outside the 750-foot notification radius and was unaware of the situation. Fort Collins was not notified and do not speak at the P&Z meeting, you are not allowed to speak at the appeal to present evidence and 10 minutes for rebuttal.

A direct quote from notes of the Habitat-sponsored neighborhood meeting dated Oct. 28, 2006: "you building here?" Habitat's response, "It's close to schools and shopping, doctors and is affordable for lower-income families to live in the outskirts because it's difficult to get to those important facilities more expensive all the time." The closest bus route is 1.5 miles away, and unless you consider a liquor store close to services, the plain and simple fact is this lot isn't close to any of the amenities.

At no time in Lowe's letter of April 27 did he make a statement of an "unattractive low-income neighborhood." Mayo, on the other hand, has commented that we misuse traffic, schools, and the impact of NIMBY. I am appalled at Mayo trying to portray residents in this neighborhood as silver-spoon

It is reprehensible that a representative and executive director from Fort Collins Habitat for Humanity organization, would utilize such tactics. We are also hardworking citizens in our community

Cathy Lund lives in Fort Collins.

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