

May 8, 2013

Haines Borough Planning Commission
Haines Borough
P.O. Box 701
Haines, AK 99827

Re. Planned Veterans Home

Dear Planning Commissioners:

This letter pertains to the Veterans Home being planned for construction in the block between Second and Third Avenue and Dalton Street and the borough alleyway. I am one of the property owners in this block.

Before I convey my concerns regarding this major project, I must state that my wife, Julie Cozzi, is the Haines Borough Clerk and chooses to remain neutral in this matter.

After viewing the artist drawings of the proposed Veterans Home on display at our local bank, I have big concerns with the drafted layout of the project. Additionally, not a single person from the board responsible for planning this facility has ever called us or knocked on our door to explain this very large project and provide an opportunity to ask questions and express concerns. This seems to me to be very inconsiderate of neighbors, especially given a building of this size.

Let me say that I am not against the project. I am certain it will be a good addition to Haines. I am just opposed to the planned placement of the structure in relation to where the green area (park) is to be and the seeming disregard for others who share the block. The building is my biggest concern because if it is built as current plans call for, it will forever take away our spectacular view of the Chilkat Mountains from our back yard and rear rooms of our home. That view was one of the reasons my wife and I decided to purchase this house and property at 121 Second Avenue N. If this structure is built as planned, we will get to look at a 22-foot wall and roof instead of the beautiful mountains.

I request that strong consideration be given to placing the planned green space directly behind the Summer Inn and all along the borough alley to Third Ave. That will give the Cozzi's and our other neighbors a better chance for some of the view we now have. I was informed by the architect that the reason for locating the green area in the planned area is because there is asbestos in that area and they don't want to build a building on top of that. If that is true, what health hazards will that pose to all of us on this block?

In closing, I would like to say that if the project doesn't change, this will directly effect and damage the Cozzi's quality of life in Haines. I would hope you would encourage the developers to take a new look at the plans and consider my suggestion for relocating the green space, because I believe it could make this project good for everyone.

Sincerely,

Mark Cozzi