



THE ST. PAUL'S SENTINEL

Honoring and preserving our community's heritage

A publication of the Committee to Save St. Paul's/St. Paul's Conservancy Corp., October 23, 2007

AN UPDATE ON OUR ADVOCACY

During the past weeks since the Board of Trustees announced AvalonBay Communities as its “conditional designee” to redevelop St. Paul’s, the Committee to Save St. Paul’s has been speaking and meeting with people close to the issue. Since only sketchy bits and pieces of the Avalon proposal were given at the Trustees meeting, and to date the Avalon proposal is not on file in the public library, CSSP has contacted AvalonBay to request the details of their proposal. We will review their plans for St. Paul’s with our core principles in mind: keeping the property under village control, restoring and preserving the historic interior and exterior features, creating meaningful community space in significant areas of the Main Building, and staying within the footprint of St. Paul’s without new development on the site.

Below is a report of last week’s Board of Trustees meeting, at which Mayor Bee announced the withdrawal of the Canus/CSSP proposal. Canus was left with no choice but to withdraw. [Remember: the Trustees have already designated and voted to have AvalonBay as the St. Paul’s developer.]

While the Committee to Save St. Paul’s and Canus have never shied away from close examination of our plan—indeed we held two public meeting to tell residents about our plan—we were troubled that the Village’s meeting to discuss the finalists’ proposals would be a very one-sided presentation with the conclusion already clear. Therefore, neither Canus nor the CSSP would be given adequate opportunity to explain its plan, and the presentation would simply result in a public bashing of Canus Corporation.

Notwithstanding the departure of our development partner, the Committee to Save St. Paul’s will continue its advocacy on behalf of the large segment of our community that shares a commitment to our goals as stated above. It’s also worthy to point out that despite the naysayers, the Committee to Save St. Paul’s has demonstrated that those goals are achievable. We will continue to work to make sure they are a part of any solution to the St. Paul’s challenge. You, and all residents, deserve no less.

REPORT ON OCTOBER 18 BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

BY OUR ADMINISTRATIVE AND COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

It was disheartening to see that only about two dozen people attended last Thursday’s Board of Trustees meeting and that, other than myself and resident Mort Yuter, no one spoke about the St. Paul’s issue.

I want to report to you that since the October 4 meeting, the Board of Trustees leadership was continuing to pursue a side-by-side comparison of the Avalon and Canus proposals scheduled to be delivered by consultant Karen Backus and Associates. We could only assume that the public meeting would be handled with the same vigor that Trustee John Mauk used to

promote Avalon and disparage Canus on October 4. CSSP is saddened that the process used in the selection of a conditional developer has caused our development partner, Canus Corporation, to withdraw the Canus/Committee to Save St. Paul's proposal.

Needless to say, with Canus's letter of withdrawal sent to Mayor Bee on Wednesday evening (10/17), the Mayor announced at Thursday night's Board of Trustees meeting that the trustees decided to cancel their public side-by-side account on October 24.

It should be noted, though, that Mr. Yuter reminded the Board of Trustees that they promised input from the community. He asked when the community will have its education [on the Avalon project] and "talk" with the trustees. He added, "I don't see the openness."

Trustee Mauk's reply sketched out more interaction between the Mayor's Committee/trustees and Avalon, the drawing up of non-binding agreements, and Avalon's pursuit of the "broad community support" process. Bottom line, though, Mr. Mauk said, "It is our hope that before the end of November we will be having some public presentations."

Disappointing, I would say, for a public that was promised "extensive community input," but has been ultimately left out of the process.

Thanks again for your continued support,
Maureen Traxler

The Committee to Save St. Paul's/St. Paul's Conservancy Corp.

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