

From: Trey Holloway tholloway@maret.org
Subject: Information from Maret on Tree Work at ECC and BZA Order
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To: Gore, Lisa (SMD 3G01) 3G01@anc.dc.gov, Chang, Connie (SMD 3G05) 3g05@anc.dc.gov, Higgins, John (SMD 3G02) 3G02@anc.dc.gov, peter.gosselin@anc.dc.gov, Speck, Randy (SMD 3G03) 3G03@anc.dc.gov, Zeldin, Michael (SMD 3G04) 3g04@anc.dc.gov, 3g07@anc.dc.gov, ANC.FERGUSON@gmail.com, peter.anc3g.dc@gmail.com, Jenny Backus backusconsulting@gmail.com, michaelosborne457@gmail.com, Marek Gootman mgootman@usa.net, Bruce Sherman brucesherman5@gmail.com, MANITOWOC77@gmail.com
Cc: Marjo Talbott mtalbott@maret.org, Sally Dunkelberger sdunkelberger@maret.org, Carolyn Law claw@maret.org, Sherry Rutherford srutherford@requityrealestate.com

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Hello Commissioners (Continuing, Outgoing and Incoming) and Task Force Members,

I hope you have been having a good holiday season with family and friends. We wanted to reach out with information about the tree work and the BZA. This is information we plan to discuss when we present to the ANC in January, but wanted you to have it in advance given the recent discussion and petition posted on the Chevy Chase listserv.

The first point is one we have made multiple times. The tree removal and transplant work is separate and apart from the BZA order. The BZA does not govern tree work. It is governed by DDOT's Urban Forestry Division (UFD). The work on the trees can be completed once appropriate permits have been obtained and without any special exception approval or public review process. However, we have worked to actively engage the public throughout the process, including posting our tree preservation plan several months ago on our project website. Additionally, we have been in constant contact with UFD during our planning and they have issued us the requisite permits to remove the necessary trees, transplant trees and preserve certain trees. The tree work is approved to move forward and, as we have discussed with the ANC and the Task Force, and have communicated directly to members of the surrounding community, we plan to start this work in early February.

Regarding the BZA, the written order has not been issued yet. However, as you are aware, on April 6, 2022 the BZA voted to unanimously approve our special exception application. **So while the order has not been released, the BZA clearly and affirmatively ruled in favor of our project when they voted to grant our special exception application.**

We have compiled the following details about the trees on the ECC site that we would like to share. Again, this is information we were planning to share in our upcoming presentation, but feel that it is now important for you to have at this point.

- There are 146 trees on the site at ECC, either directly on the property or potentially impacted by our construction or tree transplant (e.g., in a neighbor's yard, but the roots extending onto the ECC site)
- 80 of the trees are going to remain on the site:
 - 4 of those trees will be transplanted by a nationally recognized expert tree firm, Environmental Design Inc. (all of these trees are listed in our approved permit)
 - 7 of the trees are being maintained in place (we are building around them and will take care to ensure construction doesn't harm them; All of these are listed in our approved permit)
 - The ring of the 12 Apostle Trees will be protected during construction to ensure they are unharmed
 - The remaining 57 trees will be untouched and protected as needed during construction
- 66 trees will be removed. Below are additional statistics about those trees:

- 27 are considered to be Dead, Critical or Poor condition, or are Invasive species (8 total invasive trees)
- 32 are considered to be in Fair condition
- **Only 7 of the trees being removed are considered to be in Good condition**
- It is important to note that our current tree removal permits include 61 trees. There are five trees on the site that are slated for removal, but because they are not considered Heritage or Special Trees, their removal does not require a permit
- As we have stated from the beginning, and as detailed in our zoning submission, the site will be re-planted and vegetative buffers provided as part of the field construction
- **So all-in-all, 55% (80 total) of the trees are remaining on the site and 40% (59 total) of the trees are in Fair condition or worse. There are only 7 trees that are being removed that are in Good condition. That is only 5% of the total trees on the site.**

We don't believe it would be productive to get into a protracted back and forth on the listserv over this, but we do want to make sure you and members of the community have timely and accurate information on our plans. As such, we are happy for this information to be posted publicly as you all see fit. If there are any questions, please let us know. The school is currently on Winter Break, but we will respond as quickly as we can.

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Trey Holloway

Assistant Head of School for Finance and Operations

MARET SCHOOL I

www.maret.org

3000 Cathedral Avenue

NW

Washington, DC 20008

t. 202-939-8821

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