

## **The Greening of Fountain Square**

### **July 12, 2004 – Terwilliger Lodge, Dulle Park**

- Can mature trees be sustained with roots over the garage?
- I think it's really great and appealing, but I'm concerned about how you have activities that require a hard surface. For example, it was successful one year when they had a big band. Almost anything we've ever had downtown requires a stage. We had a big band one year every Monday, and it was quite an event, with the young people watching as people danced.
- A couple of years ago, the Fountain was closed and turned off to fix the roof of the garage, wasn't it?
- With leveling the square and adding all the trees on top, what will that cost us in terms of parking spaces and what will it mean for expanding the garage. Will it cut into it?
- Seeing the state of disrepair and lack of maintenance on the square now, I am concerned. We have starlings... concerns about adding restaurants in the area. What provisions will be made for maintenance?
- I am always disappointed when we go other cities and find wonderful visitors centers that are gracious and easy to find. I would think that something more visible and accessible and visible would be nice. I applaud the green space and think it's great.
- The concept is a very nice artist's concept about 50 years from now, given the size of the trees. I think you may want to think about including something else at first besides trees. I doubt that we can plant such mature trees at first. If you want it green, you are going to need something more than trees—maybe some bushes or something of that nature, and then when trees get bigger you take them out. Some sort of staged planting plan.
- Now we will have green space that is still surrounded by skyscrapers. It is still cold.

### **July 13, 2004 – Aronoff Center for the Arts**

- I think it's a great plan. The trees are wonderful. Are you going to keep the Visitors Center on the Square?
- Have you given any thought to the disposition of the pigeon population?
- First, a functional issue. When you take the plaza down to the street level, what is the planting depth over the garage? Can you plant trees there? The other is a question of context and appropriateness. I think it's a nice pictures and nice ideas. But I think it's more of a park than a plaza. You are making a shift to a park rather than a plaza. We already have parks downtown, such as Garfield Place. At those parks, we have lower buildings and it works. What we're talking about here is not an urban high rise environment, so can you really put a park in the middle? Will that work? I am concerned that a park couldn't hold its own again a heavy urban skyscraper environment. At Central Park, if you have the size and acreage, you can compete with the buildings. But not here in Cincinnati.
- Now that you are changing it to a park, what are you going to call it? Fountain Park?

### **July 14, 2004 – Cintas Center, Xavier University**

- I have concerns about the trees. They may obstruct the view of the fountain, and may isolate rather than enhance the fountain. Also, they harbor pigeons, which could be a tremendous problem, and we shouldn't underestimate that. Can be a very serious health problem. Also lacks informal seating, which is a tremendous benefit of current design.
- What do we do to prevent birds in the trees and the bird droppings?
- I think the more trees we can have on Fountain Square, the better off we are, provided they provide good sidelines and the maintenance isn't too high. I am sure that many of us have visited other cities, and I cannot think of anywhere else that is such a concrete jungle as Fountain Square in this city. And in the summer it is one of the hottest spots on the face of this earth.
- You showed us a lot of parks that started out as parking lots. Not significant to us. And the great parks of Europe don't have a lot of trees. I don't know about planting all those trees.
- Trees don't give the feeling of safety. Also, I am concerned about vandalism and people carving things into the trees. And with budget cuts into forestry, who is going to take care of them? We had trees put in our neighborhood, and now they tell us they don't have the budget to come out and maintain the trees they have already planted.
- We are relying on tree experts from across the U.S. to give input on the design. Surely they know how--they have managed the trees in Bryant Park, and they know how to manage the trees and populations that gather in those areas. I think we should rely on experts to help us with that.
- From what I see, there are too many trees, and especially blocking the view from Fifth. We take elderly downtown who want to see the fountain and we have to drive by, and they can see it without straining to see it through trees.
- I like the trees—nice to have it green and level.

### **July 19, 2004 – Hyatt Regency Cincinnati**

- A few too many trees. Will there even be enough light around for the trees to grow? Maybe some other green—plant a little but more grass? I think that what's on that ground area now looks like cobblestones—looks like East Germany. Get rid of the concrete.
- I think we've overdone it on the trees, but I think there's enough light for them to grow. There's an ordinance about how much shade can reach the Fountain so that we can have grass. But how do we deal with some of these trees when they die?. Trying to get big trees replaced could be tough. I think of these things because I am a property manager. You might put the trees in, but somebody has to take care of them. If we get them too large in diameter, could someone hide behind them and cause a problem?
- Trees—a pretty picture, I think the idea of trees is wonderful, I think that Washington Park is a handsome place to go. My concern is, if we do get trees, will our city take care of them? I see planters put trees up and nobody ever waters them. Somebody has to take care of it.

- This is a fabulous concept, but there are too many trees. Because in all these photos all you see are trees.
- I have a great concerns as a pedestrian because I feel safer on the sidewalk rather than in the shadows of the trees.
- Not too many trees. Don't ruin the view so that you can not see the fountain.
- Seems to me that view of Square would be blocked by the trees. I don't see how they could see the Fountain because of all the trees.

**August 11, 2004 – St. Williams Church, Cincinnati**

- I can remember when they used to have so many problems with birds on the Fountain. And if we have so many trees, how will you keep up the maintenance and deal with all these birds?
- Train people not to feed the pigeons.  
It is only going to be green only six months of the year.
- It has a lot of trees, and trees will bring birds. Will create a problem for people sitting under the trees.
- To me it seems like 81 trees are too many. What kinds of trees are you thinking about putting in? Also, on Race Street in Over the Rhine, they planted Bradford pears and they have outgrown their space. And they have to be maintained.
- Trees provide oxygen and shade. How long will you want to sit on the Square without any trees and shade? We need to lower the temperature on that Square 10-20 degrees. Can use trees to do that.
- Square definitely needs to be softened up with more greenery, no matter what else happens with the final plan.

**August 12, 2004 – Southbank Partners Office, Newport, KY**

- With the trees—I understand what they are trying to do—to give more vertical visual. What about using arbors and hanging greenery?
- I have a concern that there are two pockets, and I would rather see more, smaller pockets with smaller numbers of trees. Some trees grown faster than others, and if you have one that doesn't grow, it throws off the aesthetics.