

Dear Fairview Residents,

The purpose of this letter is to share an update with you on the temple proposed by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS).

As you know, in August your Town Council unanimously denied a conditional use permit for construction of the temple, which would be totally out of place in that portion of our community. The Church has retained attorneys and lawsuits have been threatened to pressure us into allowing construction of the 43,200-square-foot, 65-foot-tall building with a steeple and spire reaching almost 174 feet. At 174 feet, the temple would be the tallest structure in Fairview towering over a residentially-zoned area. The area has been zoned residential since at least 2007, long before the Church acquired the property.

Fairview has been a welcoming home to an LDS meetinghouse for many years. This is a zoning issue concerning the size of the new building. Equivalent to more than 16 stories high—substantially higher than the figure of Lady Liberty on the Statue of Liberty—it is massive and completely out of proportion to the residential neighborhood. It would dominate the Town's skyline and change the character of our community. It would also establish a precedent for other future religious facilities. If the Town's established zoning restrictions have no meaning, how much larger will the next church be?

In a good faith effort to resolve this issue without litigation the Town has met with representatives of the Church to see if we could work out an agreement that would take our citizens' valid concerns into account. We hope to negotiate with the LDS Church to either scale down the current plans to fit in the neighborhood or move the temple to a location in the portion of the Town zoned for commercial use.

To continue to show our good faith, Town leaders have agreed to participate in non-binding mediation with Church representatives. The mediation process involves an independent third party who will try to assist both sides with resolving an issue. Mediation is almost always required by the courts in the event of a lawsuit, so by participating in this process now we are hopeful we can avoid litigation. The Mayor, Mayor Pro Tem, Town Manager, and Town Attorney will attend the mediation and subsequently relay any reasonable proposals to the Council.

It is important to stress that while private parties can reach a resolution through mediation, because Fairview is a municipal government any proposed agreement

would only be considered in a duly-noticed public meeting by the Town Council with input from Fairview citizens. In addition, the complete zoning process would be required before approval. This would include public hearings, recommendation by the Planning and Zoning Commission and finally approval by the Town Council. At every step we will keep our citizens informed of the content of any new proposal that may be considered.

There is a great deal of evidence that the Church has modified temple designs around the world to consider local preferences. Recently in Tooele, Utah, the Church changed plans for a temple and residential development after community objections. The proposed site for the Tooele temple was moved a few miles north of the original site and the temple name changed to the Deseret Peak Temple.

There is absolutely no reason why the Church cannot respect our community's resolve to maintain the character of our Town. The willingness to participate in good faith mediation does not change our position or commitment.

The Town Council recently approved the creation of a Zoning Defense Fund to protect the Town if there is litigation. I urge community members and any other persons who believe in our cause to consider contributing to our Zoning Defense Fund. Details are on the Town's website.



Henry Lessner

Mayor