

DR24-051 - 3555 Round Barn Avenue

Comments Received by Sonia Taylor

I remain very concerned about the alleged "fire lane" shown on page 3 of the current plans. Do you have any information about whether that fire lane actually exists in any real form, whether it will allow concurrent evacuation out and fire equipment in, whether there's a gate or any locks at the intersection of the fire lane and the new development on the Fountaingrove Inn property? I'm sure I have more questions, but that's a start.

Also, as I recall, the last set of plans for rebuilding the burned out hotel rooms, etc., had plans to remove dead/burned trees and vegetation. The aerial photo on page 3 of the attached appears to show only living trees/vegetation, but I have no idea how current that photo is. To save me the trouble of driving up to the site, can you let me know whether they property owner has removed all dead/dying trees and vegetation?

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I very much appreciate the clarification that the "fire lane" is actually only meant to be used to provide fire department vehicle access, and is not intended to be used for concurrent potential evacuation of guests/employees of the hotel. I do have my doubts that hotel guests/employees would adhere to that distinction in a true emergency, but since to the best of my knowledge this proposal for a new lobby building will not add any additional hotel guests, that problem is preexisting, and will have to be dealt with when/if it ever comes to a head. (I also have my doubts about fire department apparatus being able to access that road at all, through the housing development on the site of the prior Fountaingrove Inn, but nothing can be done about that now.)

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I'm disturbed about their plan to use "VERTICAL WOOD CLADDING THERMORY BENCHMARK ASH 1X8" as part of the exterior of this building, which is real wood. In their original plans (when they were going to build a number of cottages as well as a lobby), none of the buildings were going to have any actual wood in them -- they were instead going to use "fiber cement faux wood siding," which seems far more appropriate given the fact that this property has already burned once and is in Santa Rosa's WUI. I

would prefer that they revert to a product that is not flammable, and would request that that change be made to this project before approval.

Also, on their current landscape plan, they have a large area designated to be "native grasses." I'm curious how they plan to manage those grasses, and whether they will keep them cut to Santa Rosa's required height during the summer/fall.

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