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of, or against, giving the Gateway Island to a developer. Regretfully, due to time constraints, I was not able to read all the questions and concerns of the attendees. I was, however, able to call on all the hands that were raised to allow viewpoints of the current question/concern being discussed. There were a couple moments where the debate got "hot", but I think it was "mostly civil". In summary, neither side was able to convince the other of "their" perspective, but arguments were made on both sides.

In my opinion, redevelopment of the Gateway should have community involvement, multiple voices should be heard. To quote the St. Johns/Lombard Plan in regards to the Gateway redevelopment, "Specific design details still need to be developed through a design engineering process with public involvement" (P.86). How much of the Public been involved?

Tony Darco

Dear Editor,

By the time your readers have picked up this paper, Portland City Council will have heard Ivy Island testimony, for and against.

What happens now? Now the City Council will consider testimony and make their decision on February 17, 2016. I encourage your readers, no matter what side you are on, to call the City Council and make your wishes known concerning Ivy Island and the Bolouri Development, or the Union at St. Johns as it's called. They're still thinking about it and trying to decide. Let them know what you want them to do.

A Recap of the Positions

The Union at St. Johns is coming to St Johns in SOME form or another. Mr. Bolouri has said that there will be a four-story, 106 unit complex with mixed retail space, with or without Ivy Island. And that is what is at issue: Ivy Island and the Lombard Slip Lane. The two opposing sides have different ideas as to what the City Council should do.

The Pro-Vacation, DON'T save Ivy Island side, would like the slip lane removed for a safety issue at Charleston. This requires that Public Land be made Private. The removal, along with the accompanying new right turn into St. Johns will slow traffic and make

the Charleston corner safer. They also believe that the plazas that will be created have value; that the Union at St. Johns will create an enhanced Gateway into St Johns, and that the ensuing four-story building is an appropriate structure for St. Johns.

The Save Ivy Island side believes that the configuration that we currently have, with the mature trees and the marquee sign is an iconic, historic and effective Gateway into our business district. We believe that the slip lane prevents traffic congestion, and that there are other, more traditional ways of calming traffic at the slip lane and making the Charleston corner safer. We also believe that the Union at St. Johns ruins this intersection as a Gateway, that the proposed plaza has little value, and that it is vitally important that Public Land remains Public.

I believe that it's unfortunate that PBOT, Portland Planning, or City Hall did not ask our community about this project by holding hearings, having Town Halls, etc. Something that changes the face of St. Johns so radically, so irreversibly, needed more discussion and consensus. For the two opposing sides it's been a street fight without a referee.

St. Johns has a reputation in City Hall for being an unpredictable, contentious and raucous community, so let's not disappoint. I say both sides should go out swinging. They didn't ask our opinion, but let's give it to them anyways. What you do now will make a difference. NO MATTER WHAT SIDE YOU ARE ON, CALL TODAY. City Hall is deciding our future for our community. It's our last chance for all of us, no matter what your position is, to let them know what you think.

These are the five people voting on this issue. Calling them is easy,

just say you want to leave a message, they'll switch you over. You won't have to talk to anybody! You can call anytime, even after hours and go to voicemail. Easy peasy.

- Mayor Charlie Hales- 503.823.4120
- Commissioner Amanda Fritz-503.823.3008
- Commissioner Steve Novick -503.823.4682
- Commissioner Nick Fish- 503.823.3589
- Commissioner Dan Saltzman 503.823.4151

**Let's Make Our St. Johns Gateway Better**

Dear Editor,  
St. Johnians, you thought it was over? That you wouldn't see another letter about Ivy Island? Not yet. On Feb. 17 the final vote will be taken. The Portland City Council will decide on that date. You can still call each person on the City Council and tell them what you want.

My final thoughts: Our neighbors in favor of the vacation of Ivy Island and the Lombard Slip Lane often use the St Johns Lombard Plan (SJLP) as justification for supporting the vacation, but I take issue over WHAT the Developer intends to build in this location if we give him our public land. The SJLP NOWHERE suggests that we fill up the space left emptied by Ivy Island with a large, four-story structure. In fact, on page 36 of the SJLP, there is a drawing that illustrates the recommended changes to Ivy Island and the Lombard Slip Lane, namely, a PARK, trees and greenery at the entryway to the "new and improved" gateway to St Johns. With the Union At St Johns, tall trees are missing, the greenspace is missing and so is the

pedestrian walkway.

The SJLP has several recommendations for the "new" gateway to downtown St Johns: 1) It should be clear that this is THE GATEWAY to the business core, 2) Visibility into the downtown center should be increased, and 3) There should be greenspace and a protected pedestrian corridor. The original idea was that the Lombard Slip lane would be closed off and Ivy Island would be shifted north to accommodate the traffic improvements at Lombard and Richmond and Jersey. What remained of Ivy Island, along with the now closed-off Slip Lane, would essentially become a park and pedestrian walk way.

With our current configuration, we already have a Gateway into the downtown district. It is clear, with the Lombard Slip and Ivy Island as they stand, that this is the entrance to our downtown. The problem we have with the Slip Lane, where vehicles enter the downtown too fast, is an easier problem to fix than the opposite, where no vehicles enter at all. I am concerned about this. I worry that the only people who will come downtown will be the people who already know the downtown is there. Instead of a Gateway, I fear that the new development will function like a wall closing off our current access to our downtown. There will no longer be an obvious and unique gateway into St Johns. What we have is "just" a corner, a corner that looks like all the other newly minted corners on North Portland.

Furthermore, with an underground parking garage, like the one slated to be built under the current Ivy Island, trees won't grow as tall as the 40 foot tall trees that currently stand on Ivy Island. We want our children to enjoy the trees, just as we want ALL the residents and visitors to St Johns to be able to enjoy the view of the St Johns Bridge as they approach our downtown, not just the well-to-do people lucky enough to live on the top floors of the Union at St Johns.

My neighbors in favor of the vacation will say, "But Shae, what about that dangerous blind curve? You heartless woman! Don't you care about the safety of our children?" Of course I care, as do all of us fighting to save Ivy Island. How about a speed bump and flashing red light and a sign that says, "E"



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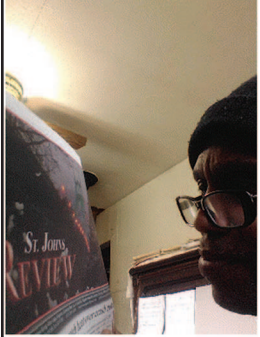
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