

Riley, Kate

From: Peterson, Lisa
Sent: Thursday, January 30, 2020 1:01 PM
To: Riley, Kate; Roy, Brendon; Black, Michael
Subject: FW: Save the Green Space at Tobin VLUS: Here is a solution that offers the best of both worlds--bigger school capacity w/ same green space

Begin forwarded message:

From: Kiril Alexandrov <Kiril@post.harvard.edu>
Date: January 29, 2020 at 10:14:49 PM EST
To: Catherine Alexandrov <cat@bigskinny.net>
Subject: Save the Green Space at Tobin VLUS: Here is a solution that offers the best of both worlds--bigger school capacity w/ same green space

Hello Concerned Cantibridgians,

Take a look at the attached Green Option for the proposed new Tobin VLUS School that saves all the green space we know and love. I'd love your feedback. On the heels of last week's community meeting, I think a lot of folks want to keep the existing green space & fields as is since they are very functional for kids and community needs. Attached is a quickie but to scale mockup my wonderful wife [Catherine E Alexandrov](#) put together to show how the building and green field ratios work out best for both goals by moving & enlarging/consolidating the proposed building imprint more west & southwest. This therefore results in getting a larger square foot building for more student capacity while keeping the exact same green field footprint to better meet their recreational needs as well as that of the families that use the green space outside of the short 6.5 hour school day. Please forward to interested parties as the more people know there is another option besides the ones shown so far that make mince meat of the green space.

Note: Cambridge is willing to pay for underground parking and I think it is a good idea for the bus drop-off loop to be mostly covered due to our 6 months of cold weather (my son Stefan always brings that up when he is waiting for the bus). There is no reason to destroy the existing green space, just build a bigger & taller building using the existing parking lot & partial front space while making the parking underground. Any new building is an improvement over the Soviet style concrete block so the neighborhood will be de facto enhanced. I think it is important for the kids to have a clear binary demarcation between school and the freedom of big green spaces without a bunch of building sprawl casting real and psychological shadows on their play and sports space. None of the proposed solutions make this important distinction, none of the proposed design ideas to date really understand the perfect balance of what we already have in place in terms of space, visuals, sunsets, and feel of open green space. As everybody knows, the latest scientific research these days clearly shows a correlation between higher academic achievement resulting from more active play so we need the existing green space as is to accommodate the doubling of the student numbers. Keep the Green Space!

If you have any great photos capturing the beauty and essence of the green space and/or the spectacular sunsets, please email them to me and also to the following entities below with your thoughts. I want to put together a website about this project and what we as a community and set of parents want to save during this new building process.

If you want anything to happen and to help keep the green space as is, please send/email your thoughts to all these entities highlighted below for consideration while there is still time! The next meeting concerning this is at Tobin at 6:30 to 8:30pm on February 12th! Please go there and speak your mind and heart about this. If they tell you we all have to compromise, you know by looking at the attached design idea, nobody has to compromise in this situation, there is no need at all--you can have the larger capacity and the same green space! Please forward this email to everyone--not just parents with kids going to Tobin but because this space also serves as a public park that families bike, jog, fly kites, play ball, run their dogs, fly their drones, picnic, lie around in the grass, shoot hoops, watch their kids on the playgrounds--all points are visible so the entire family can enjoy different parts at different times without the feel of building sprawl everywhere. This is very important for future generations as we all learned at the last meeting--Cambridge is constantly building over green space and when green space goes, it never comes back. So please forward this to everyone you know in Cambridge that cares about green spaces--we need their voices to sound off on this to these folks below. (Insert Walt Whitman poem here....). See you at the next meeting on the 12th!

[City Councillors--CityCouncil@cambridgema.gov](mailto:CityCouncillors@cambridgema.gov)

[and Council@cambridgema.gov](mailto:andCouncil@cambridgema.gov)

Mayor: mayor@cambridgema.gov

Louis DePasquale-- City Manager citymanager@cambridgema.gov

Kate Riley--kriley@cambridgema.gov

Lisa Peterson--Deputy City Manager--lisap@cambridgema.gov

Cheers,

Kiril Stefan Alexandrov

Co-Founder and Senior Adviser

International Economic Alliance

<http://www.iealliance.org/>



THE GREEN OPTION

VLUS + TOBIN SCHOOL

