

Dave DeGrandpre,
AICP, Planning Supervisor,
Community Planning Development & Innovation,
City of Missoula

October 12th, 2023

Dear Dave,

Thank you for presenting at the East Missoula Community Council On October 10th. The information was useful and allowed for good questions from the community.

One important item was the transparency criteria for such a development application to the city. During our meeting you stated that your office and the application process were the mechanisms for checking on the transparency of an application process. In the packet given to you by 406 Engineering as part of the Aspire subdivision application a public engagement section was included. Brian Throckmorton included the powerpoint and meeting information. The missing information in this section is that this was the ONLY meeting with the East Missoula community related to the Aspire project. This ONE meeting was early in the process. Mr. Throckmorton made that clear throughout the meeting. The plans presented were preliminary and that there was still a long way to go. The slides presented were put on a small screen in a large gymnasium and were not readable by the attendants. Mr. Throckmorton told community members not to worry, this was just a preliminary presentation. Again, this was the LAST our community have seen or heard from 406 Engineering, Mr. Throckmorton, or the developer.

The East Missoula Community Council was sent the application packet by request from your office, not 406 Engineering. Also, this information got to us on the 27th of September, with only 2 days between our next public meeting and this deadline.

The members of the community council feel the Aspire development has yet to meet the transparency criteria as it applies to residents of the community, where the Aspire development wishes to be.

The basic premiss of annexation being required to access city services is not accurate. Aspire homes will have city water and sewer regardless.

The council requests that the application approval be postponed until community engagement with current plans can be made and questions from the public be addressed. There are many residents with questions and concerns that have a right to transparent and timely communication.

Thank you for your attention. The council and our community would like to be part of our growing community.

Sincerely,
East Missoula Community Council
Sue Holden: Co-Chair
Jack Ballas: Co-Chair
Lisa Thomas: Secretary
Stephen Heyes: Treasurer
Stephanie Lemberg: council member
John Chaussee: council alternate