

Plenty of Solon sites are better suited for McDonald's proposal

McDonald's proposal was defeated by Solon city council last week. Or was it?

In her open letter the prior week, the local franchise owner stated that if residents don't want it, she will walk away, while waiting for her 'silent majority' to voice their support. Interestingly, not one Solon resident came forward to offer their support during council. Only a fellow franchise operator expressed support from a business aspect, not from a resident's perspective. On the other hand, several residents with extensive expertise in urban planning articulated practical reasons why the proposed site plan should not be approved.

According to news articles, Ms. Karos stated she will continue to pursue relocation to the busiest, most congested intersection in the city. To completely dismiss the safety of all residents and commuters for the sake of increasing her business by an estimated 25 percent is totally irresponsible.

One minute it is presented as an appealing "urban oasis" where people can relax and enjoy free wi-fi, the next minute it's primarily a drive-thru operation. Either way, people attempting to enter the undersized lot will back up into the street, attempt dangerous left turns and won't easily access or exit the few available parking spaces, let alone walk across the lot safely.

She appeared totally unconcerned when challenged about McDonald's patrons cannibalizing nearby business' parking spaces. Apparently this is their business strategy — get the variances and site plan shoved through, then all the resulting problems fall on everyone else. Does this sound like a good corporate citizen? I think not.

This project, in the works for almost two years, has consumed substantial resources for all parties. Common sense dictates it is time to move on and select an alternate site without enormous zoning variances, traffic and safety

issues, and one which better serves its patrons and all residents. There are plenty of potential sites within Solon that meet this criteria. Let's not bear the expense and agony of further appeals and litigation.

Residents and council members sent a message loud and clear. It's time for McDonald's officials to start listening.

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