

Roland Park E-letter

September 10, 2008

NEWS FOR THE WEEK

1. Please read the *Roland Park News* fall issue cover to cover. Our neighbors have put so much time and energy into this edition — it is full of fascinating information.
2. Some of you who were on vacation may have missed the *New York Times* article on the BCC land sale just before Labor Day. The BCC/Keswick proposal is serious and unprecedented in our neighborhood; it's getting national attention. The headlines and photos sent the clear message that our neighborhood would be drastically effected by the change in zoning. The article may be viewed at the RolandPark.org web site: <http://rolandpark.org/documents/NYTArticle081908.pdf>.
3. Last week, Phil Spevak, president of the Roland Park Civic League, and representatives of the community had meetings with the mayor and city Planning Department. Both resulted in long and thoughtful discussions. Mayor Dixon gave us a chance to present our arguments and asked excellent questions. The Planning Department spent more than two hours with our representatives. We are so fortunate to have bright, energetic people representing us, spending hours and hours volunteering to help this community!
4. Your friends may be asking, what's all this about a PUD? The BCC land is currently zoned R-1, which allows for single family homes, religious institutions, schools and recreation areas. A PUD, or planned unit development, is an overlay that fits on top of underlying zoning and provides for uses not permitted under existing zoning. Keswick's contract is contingent on this change in zoning. Keswick will not pay \$12.5 million for the land with current zoning. A planned unit development, or PUD, is a flexible zoning tool which would allow Keswick to have the development rights for all of BCC's 33 acres even though it will only build on a portion of the land. Keswick must convince the City Council and mayor to pass a law to allow the PUD since the uses it proposes are not allowed under R-1 zoning.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Sign up for an upcoming roundtable discussion in one of your neighbors' homes. E-mail roundtable@rolandpark.org if you need more information or to schedule a date. There are at least two meetings offered in each plat, so we can find a date that works with your schedule. It's a busy time of year but this is the most significant threat to our community in our lifetime. Please make time to get informed and give your opinion!
2. Make your voice heard. Please keep those signs up or get a sign. Many are being stolen, so please replace them. This is a visible sign of how our community feels. Most importantly, it's working! We all look forward to the day when they can come down, but for now, we need them up. E-mail signs@rolandpark.org and you can arrange to pick one up or have one dropped off.

3. Keep the dialogue open with your neighbors. The more we are all informed about our community's situation, the better. United we stand!
4. Keep communicating with our elected officials and the media. E-mailing responses to articles in the paper or just thanking officials for supporting Roland Park will go a long way towards keeping our situation top of mind. City elected representatives' e-mail addresses are on the RolandPark.org web site (<http://rolandpark.org/RPReps.html>). The Mayor, the City Council president and your City Council representative are the three most important for us right now.
5. There are a few of Greg Otto's fabulous T-shirts left and more are being ordered. The remaining ones can be purchased at Schneider's hardware Store — \$10 each for a good cause! Mobile billboards work!
6. Can you spare two hours next weekend from 3-5 p.m. on Sunday afternoon? We will be going door to door to drop off information and could use a few extra hands. E-mail volunteer@rolandpark.org if you can help.
7. Finally, save the date of October 14th for one of the most important community events in Roland Park history. There will be a special Civic League meeting to address the Keswick/BCC proposal and the community's alternative plan for the use of the BCC space. Time is 7-9 p.m. Location to be announced.

Keep up the good work, Roland Park!

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