



March 3, 2009

To my Roland Park neighbors:

We are at a critical crossroads regarding the proposal by Keswick to build a continuing care retirement community in Roland Park.

You remember that last November the Mayor rejected the Keswick proposal. Still, she urged more dialogue until March 15, 2009 to see if a compromise were possible.

We honored her request. Several times I wrote to Keswick CEO, Libby Bowerman, asking to see a revised plan, if one were prepared. I offered to present one to our Land Use Committee, Civic League and community. We met with the Club leadership as well.

Keswick, however, waited until just recently to provide a revised plan to the Roland Park community. We have posted it at <http://rolandpark.org/KMCCRevisedPlans.html>

That Keswick took three months to provide their plan until the Mayor's deadline is but two weeks away is either tardiness, or a deliberate attempt to shorten the time for a community review.

A community review will occur. Our response will not be blunted or ignored.

Accordingly, I have referred the plan to our Land Use Committee and Civic League. I have invited Ms. Bowerman to explain the changes to these groups. She has not yet responded.

I have explained the tactics of delay by Keswick in a recent letter to the Mayor and have asked her to allow our community time to review the revised plan. The Mayor must not permit this developer to hide from our community. I also emphasized how fortunate we are to have received the support of our Council representatives and their President, as well as the backing of our State representatives.

I encourage all of you to write to the Mayor now and ask that she join us. Her email address is mayor@baltimorecity.gov and her mailing address, The Honorable Sheila Dixon, Office of the Mayor, City Hall, 100 N. Holiday St., Room 250, Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Let us not forgot our goals. Most importantly, we are protecting the bulwark that zoning provides by rejecting uses on this land inconsistent with its current residential R-1 zoning. Next, we continue to develop the framework and plan so that the Club, at the appropriate time, will choose to sell the land for community open space and recreation.

My ongoing thanks and sincere best wishes,
Philip J. Spevak
President, Roland Park Civic League