

11/12/19

Item # 2A

**Julie Minot**

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**From:** John Dietrich <jad626@pacbell.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 12, 2019 1:19 PM  
**To:** Mayor and Council  
**Subject:** Development across the street from the Historic Santa Clara Depot

I understand there is an item on the agenda for tonight's meeting to allow a company to have exclusive negotiating rights for the development of the City's and VTA property across the street from the Historic Santa Clara Depot on Railroad Ave. This item is on the consent calendar. I can't make this meeting because of another appointment. I still feel that I should voice my concern.

I went to the informational meeting held at the police department to describe the project. This company is so far off base with their design in so many ways: absolutely no continuity of architecture between the depot and the proposed project, far too few parking places for the project, Caltrain use, and parking for depot visitors, no published parking plan during construction, and the student housing sponsored by the City.

This developer should not have exclusive rights to negotiate. Competition is the cornerstone for quality design. Why can't they compete against others for the best design? Are they afraid their lackluster design will be shown to be a poor one when compared to top-notch designers?

I do not feel like I was respected during the informational meeting at the police department, but rather that the developer knew what was best for us and told us what we needed to build; I think their goal was to check a box that they meet with the public.

John Dietrich  
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Santa Clara resident since 1979  
South Bay Historical Railroad Society member since 1991

**POST MEETING MATERIAL**