### **Public Hearing Documents (received at meeting)**

Greenwood, Steven 1111 Argyle St, Saint Paul oppose Alberico, Teri 1023 Como Ave, Saint Paul oppose Spaulding, Bob (Adaptive Reuse of Churches) 1153 Churchill St, Saint Paul oppose Rufenacht, Dolores 1512 Canfield Ave, Saint Paul oppose Additional documents submitted by neighbors showing traffic congestion

Stop the demolition document

Rivera Architects document

Neal, Roy

1231 Minnehaha Ave W

oppose

Deny Variances for TCGIS (Area, Height and Parking) as they do not comply with Minnesota State Statute

462.357 Subd. 6. (2)

By
Steven Greenwood
1111 Argyle St.
St. Paul, MN

### Subd. 6. Appeals and adjustments.

Appeals to the board of appeals and adjustments may be taken by any affected person upon compliance with any reasonable conditions imposed by the zoning ordinance. The board of appeals and adjustments has the following powers with respect to the zoning ordinance:

- (1) To hear and decide appeals where it is alleged that there is an error in any order, requirement, decision, or determination made by an administrative officer in the enforcement of the zoning ordinance.
- (2) To hear requests for variances from the requirements of the zoning ordinance including restrictions placed on nonconformities. Variances shall only be permitted when they are in harmony with the general purposes and intent of the ordinance and when the variances are consistent with the comprehensive plan. Variances may be granted when the applicant for the variance establishes that there are practical difficulties in complying with the zoning ordinance. "Practical difficulties," as used in connection with the granting of a variance, means that the property owner proposes to use the property in a reasonable manner not permitted by the zoning ordinance; the plight of the landowner is due to circumstances unique to the property not created by the landowner; and the variance, if granted, will not alter the essential character of the locality. Economic considerations alone do not constitute practical difficulties. Practical difficulties include, but are not limited to, inadequate access to direct sunlight for solar energy systems. Variances shall be granted for earth sheltered construction as defined in section 216C.06, subdivision 14, when in harmony with the ordinance. The board of appeals and adjustments or the governing body as the case may be, may not permit as a variance any use that is not allowed under the zoning ordinance for property in the zone where the affected person's land is located. The board or governing body as the case may be, may permit as a variance the temporary use of a one family dwelling as a twofamily dwelling. The board or governing body as the case may be may impose conditions in the granting of variances. A condition must be directly related to and must bear a rough proportionality to the impact created by the variance.

462.357 OFFICIAL CONTROLS: ZONING ORDINANCE.

The plight of the landowner is due to circumstances unique to the property not created by the landowner;

The variance, if granted, will not alter the <u>essential character</u> of the locality.

Economic considerations alone do not constitute practical difficulties.

70615

### The plight of the landowner is created by the landowner, not the property

### **Historical Context -**

- 1. St. Andrews School built in 1957
- 2. Peak year (Baby Boom) 1962
- 3. # of Students 592 MAX
- 4. Teachers − 11 Sisters and 4 lay teachers
- 5. Students per classroom 37 MAX.
- 6. Two Sections per grade

### **Present Conditions**

- 1. About 580+ students
- 2. About 80 staff.
- 3. Want 24 Students per classroom
- 4. Want Three Sections per grade

When TCGIS purchased St. Andrew's they had full knowledge of the church condition, a 2 section per grade school and limited parking space size & lot size.

### TCGIS created their own plight by their planning errors, variances must be denied.

- a. The **Property** did not create the plight where 3 sections per grade are needed. There are hundreds of successful schools with 2 sections per grade. \*\*The solution is to hire someone who can fiscally manage a 2 section per grade school\*\*
- b. The **Property** did not create the student departure rate planning error. Ted Anderson said, 'more space is needed because the student departure rate was lower than planned'.
- c. The **Property** did not create the TCGIS stipulation of 24 students per class. St. Andrews had 37 max.
- d. The **Property** did not create the need for a variance request for 37 cars. It's TCGIS expansion that is creating their own plight.
- e. The **Property** did not stipulate that more students be added for enrollment.

### St. Andrew's historic eligibility complies with:

City Code - Section 73.05 requirements for historical designation:

- (1) Its character, interest or value as part of the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the City of Saint Paul, State of Minnesota or the United States.
- (4) Its embodiment of distinguishing characteristics of an architectural or engineering type or specimen.
- (5) Its identification as the work or an architect, engineer, or master builder whose individual work has influenced the development of the City of Saint Paul.
- (7) Its unique location or <u>singular physical</u> characteristic representing an established and <u>familiar visual feature of a neighborhood</u>, community or the City of Saint Paul.

### Four Independent Groups of Professional Architectural Historical Groups have concurred with historical eligibility:

- 1. Minnesota Historical Society
- 2. The St. Paul HPC Commissioners
- 3. The St. Paul HPC staff
- 4. Historical architectural professionals, who wrote St. Andrews report:

Rolf Anderson, Barb Bezat, Marilyn Chiat, Alan Lathrop, and Bob Roscoe

\*\*\* ANY DEMOLITION OF ST. ANDREWS
ALTERS THE CHARACTER OF
WARRENDALE, - IRRESPECTIVE OF CITY
COUNCIL'S HISTORICAL DESIGNATION
DECISION \*\*\*

### Site Plan

I have been in 3 near miss accidents near TCGIS at pick up times, involving parents, cars and children.

### \*\*Traffic safety issues are not resolved\*\*

Noise issues, as regulated by MPCA are not resolved.

The Site Plan should not be approved.

### **SUMMARY**

Variances for TCGIS allowing demolition of St. Andrews should not be approved, it would be a violation of Minnesota State Statute 462.357:

- 1. The TCGIS's expansion plight is due to the owner, not the property.
- 2. The essential character of the locality would be permanently altered by demolition of St. Andrews.

I am Steve Greenwood and lived at 1111 Argyle about ½ block from TCGIS, since October 1983.

My request is variances for TCGIS not be recommended, as they would violate Minnesota State Statutes on variances.

This is the Minnesota statute on variance approval.

Summarizing:

The variance approval is based on uniqueness of the property, not the owner;

The variance will not alter the essential character of the locality.

Economics do not constitute practical difficulties.

### Good afternoon

My name is Teri Alberico. I live at 1023 Como Avenue.

We are here today because the school proposes to expand. The costs of this expansion are being externalized to the surrounding neighborhood and greater community. They include the demolition of an historic structure, traffic and safety impacts and impacts on noise.

I am going to focus on Finding One for the Parking Variance. Finding One states that "The variance must be in harmony with the general purposes and intent of the zoning code."

The proposed project does not meet finding one for the parking variance. Requirement (g) of section 60.103 requires the applicant "to lessen congestion on the public streets by providing off street parking of motor vehicles and for off-street loading and unloading of commercial vehicles."

A variance request of from 26 to 37 cars is extraordinary! The entire capacity of the north side of VanSlyke is 23 cars. All proposals discussed so far to manage parking are impractical. Como pool is 1200 feet away; Jessamine Ave is 800 feet away. The Mission Orthodox lot is an annual rental. If they decide the lot cannot be rented what is the consequence of being deemed out of compliance? Nothing. The structure is still demolished, the overcrowding of the site remains, and the 13 adjacent residences will be directly affected.

Here are a few slides showing the parking along Van Slyke 2013 – 2018 as well as a graph showing the number of cars parked during the day from 20 April – 12 June 2018.

The variance does not meet requirement (n) of 60.103 requires the applicant "to prevent overcrowding of land and undue congestion of population. In comparison to other schools in the area, this school has significantly more students, and concomitant staff and faculty, on a significantly smaller site.

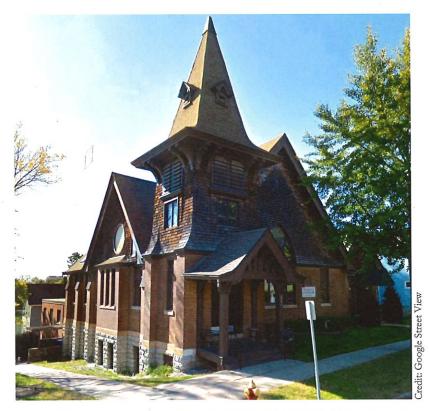
When complete the expanded school will have roughly twice the number of students per unit are of any elementary school. The FTE for the school in 2013 when they moved in was 32. It is now 86.5, another example of the growth of this school and subsequent overcrowding and congestion of this site.

### **Ecclesia Condominiums**

previously Holman United Methodist Church

- In the Dayton's Bluff Historic District -

Dayton's Bluff • Six Condominiums • Bates and Euclid • built 1904





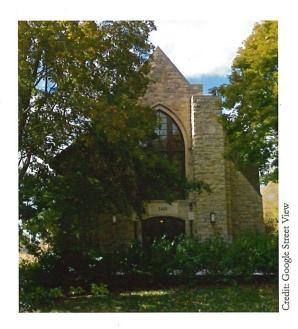
### Adaptive Reuse of Churches in Saint Paul: VALUABLE, VIABLE & EVERYWHERE

### Emily Program's Anna Westin House

previously Church of Corpus Christi
Saint Anthony Park neighborhood • Residential Eating Disorder Treatment for 16 individuals in a welcoming and homelike setting • Buford & Cleveland Avenues • built 1940





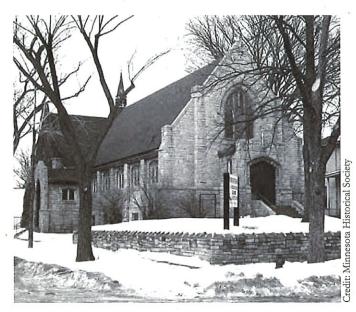




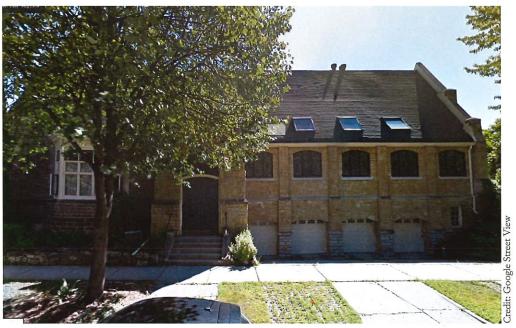
### **Stone Church Condominiums**

previously Original Saint John the Evangelist Church
- In the Summit Avenue West Historic District -

Summit University • four Condominums • <u>nearly \$1 million in tax-generating property</u> • 114 Mackubin St N • built 1907







### SteppingStone Theater for Youth Development

previously Saint Volodymyr & Olga Ukranian Orthodox Church
- In the Hill Historic District -

Summit University • Youth Theater and Education • 55 Victoria St N • built 1908





### Home and Studio of Painter/Sculptor George Morrison

previously Lutheran Church of the Ascension

Macalester-Groveland • former home and studio of artist George Morrison • residence • Cleveland & Stanford Aves • built 1924







edit: Google

### Academia Cesar Chavez Charter School

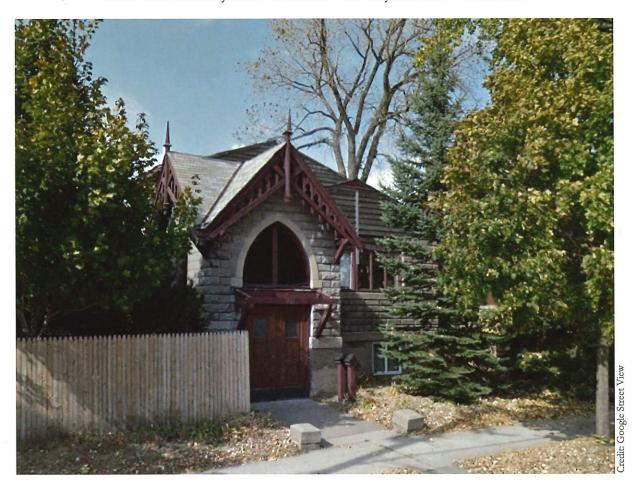
formerly Church of the Blessed Sacrament

Hazel Park • School • 1801 LaCrosse Ave • built 1918



### South Saint Anthony Park Threeplex

Previously Bethesda Norwegian Lutheran Church South Saint Anthony Park • Residence • 969 Raymond Ave • built 1908

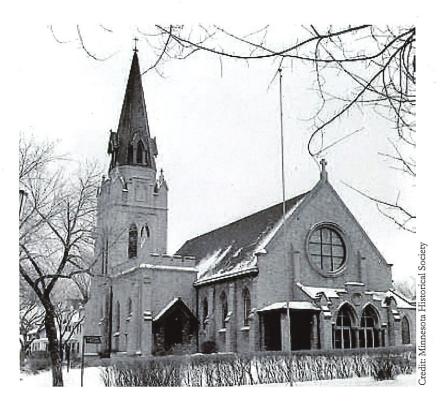


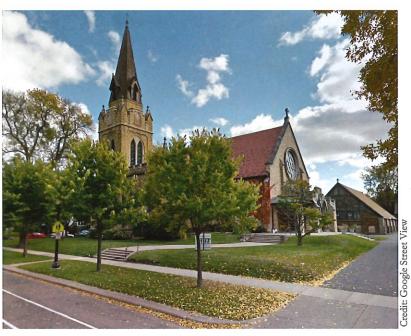
### Saint Paul's Center for the Performing Arts

previously Saint Paul's Episcopal Church-On-the-Hill

- In the Summit Avenue West Historic District -

Macalester-Groveland • Performance Hall • 1524 Summit Avenue • built 1912-13

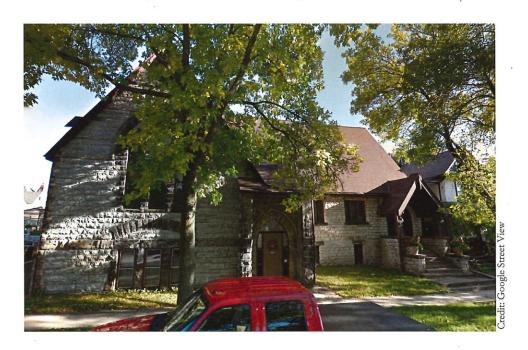




### Dayton's Bluff Residence

previously Saint Peter's Protestant Episcopal Church
- In the Dayton's Bluff Historic District -

Dayton's Bluff • 4th and Maple • built 1888



### West Side Residence

previously Asecension Protestant Episcopal Church
West Side • Residence • 315 Morton Street • built ca 1918



### Payne-Phalen Residence

Previously East Immanuel Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church
Payne-Phalen • Residence • 1019 Jessie St • built 1885



### Merriam Park Residence & Commercial

previously Olivett Congregational Church
Union Park neighborhood • Mixed residential and commercial structure • 330 Prior Av N • built 1889

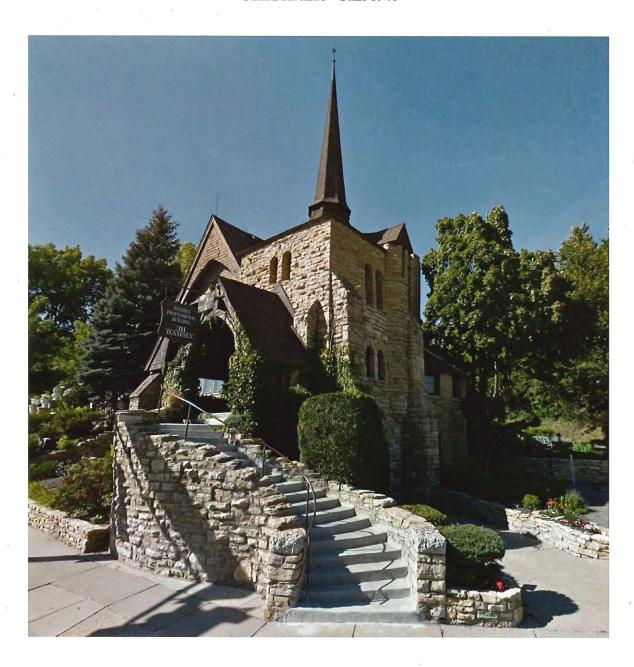


### Adaptive Reuse of Churches in Saint Paul: VALUABLE, VIABLE & EVERYWHERE

### Ramsey Professional Building

previously German Presbyterian Bethlehem Church
- In the Hill Historic District and Individually Listed -

Cass Gilbert designed church in the Ramsey Hill Neighborhood • Office Building • Ramsey Street at Grand Avenue • built 1940

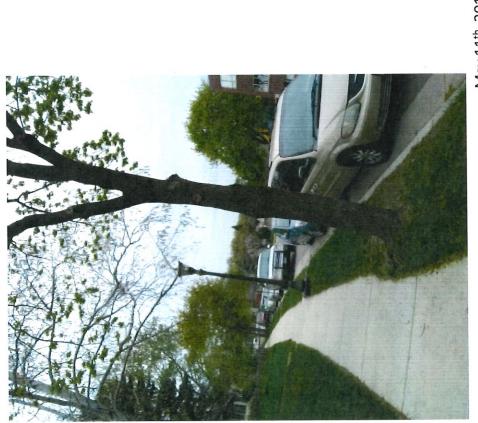


Submitted by Dolores Ruferacht 1512 Canfield Name Address Maplewood Bom in St. Paul Grew up 1 mile from City Limits at Mcknigh Rd. TOOK The Cily Bus when atechager to get to down town a Later to college I Know how imported it is & that I be on time and not have interference to it Route Stan Your Co. Il be Speak in Leference of How Your all co. Il on the #oute # 3 Van Style glex area. There has been some to enterference to the bus service. Per due to cars parking too for out car from curbs, o occasionally double Darken, Studied Crossy at any mond This has improved in the last Couple month but continues on a clarly basis the some form that has been seen by neighbor I have talked to. Turn Ceily I called the Motro transet Bus one Talk to Dreg Tuveson Asin Manager He soul as up this lim he has not had any veglots of naly the motro Bus Police being called to the stret become of Blockage of the Bas Serven pot

Thankel me for making pin awar of the Variance Being asked for In 2019/20 Even though the Variaria 15 for Como ave He agree Street particles which will oriently of on to VanSly Re and adjacent Streets that Cross VainSlyke while are Churchill & Argyle & Com Ave Same Spot, With winter an our heels always Jan - March. Show peles on to difficulty Keepen up with plowers Street Street Width de creasers dur to Snow at ourbs, This makes Travel of the Ceily Bus even more difficul. If a but is late more that 3-5 min that affects the whole Cely not just the bus 5tapp after Van 51/Ke. It can affect Bus Correct time will affect vesidest all you St. Park

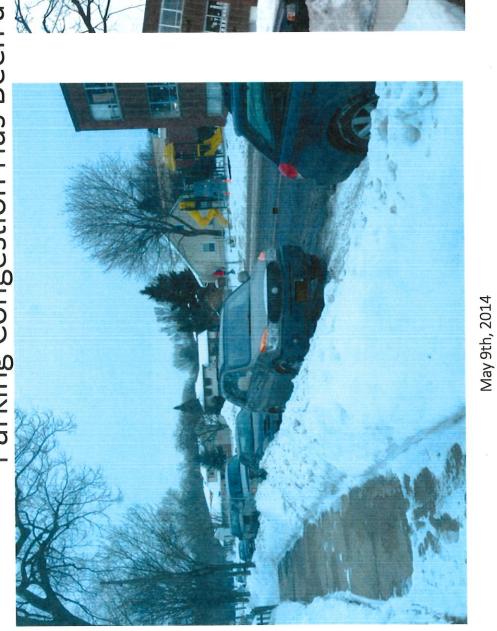
The drivers have not complained as of yet bolians they are trained to They ben trained to be very observait and watch for children in school Zones. The voite has not been reported as late as of this trove but he wil De talk to the drives about the Situation and having them coorminal with the route with the sencrease of Children & Staff will be brust high He of Traffin to the area out if a Street is ever blocked more than 3-5 ming The Transt Police Will De Called Immediah to the area. Retoral and S From as & 91 my point us I see that that this Variance Could inperet Not only the neighbor of the School but also The bus servin forthal area & possibly affect source Levelin clow that route. Time Gillows for a bus to run belascan Hamlein Im/Como Step & Margard/Dale Stop is only 7 min

It time adheas The current diliber Model for Retated Services Stud as O.T. Spear, & Spea E Technon as well at others. IS to service Them With in the Class room and Not pullout accept for Tiesley and a few cooses
where that is just too diffind
to provide the source they
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May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018



March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018



March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018

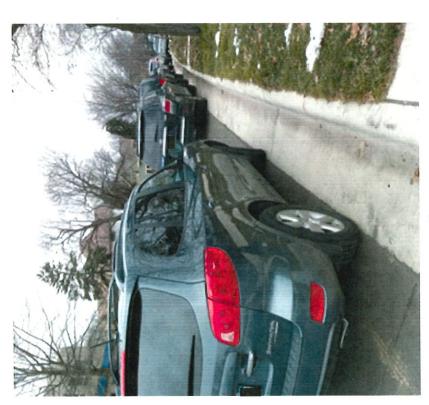


January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017





April 11<sup>th</sup> ,2017



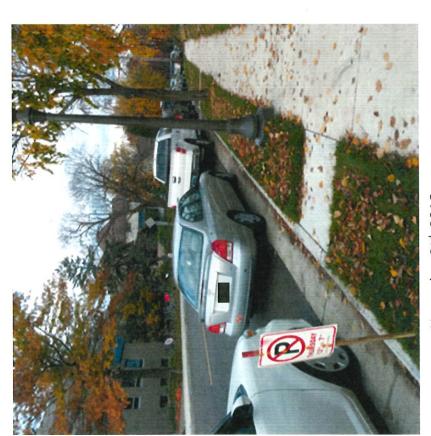
December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017



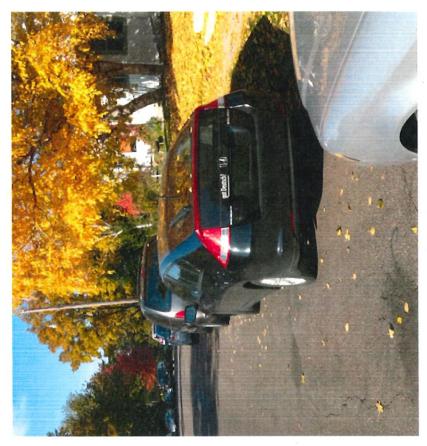
November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016



May 9th, 2014



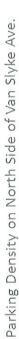
November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016

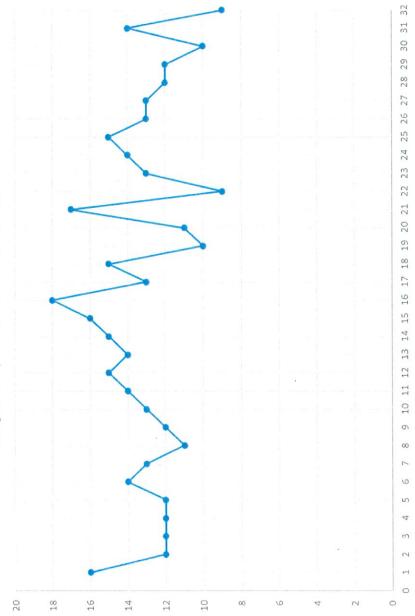


November 1st, 2013

4/20/2018 4/23/2018 4/24/2018 4/25/2018	,	71
4/23/2018 4/24/2018 4/25/2018	7	3
4/24/2018 4/25/2018	2	12
4/25/2018	က	12
8106/36/1	4	12
4/20/2010	2	12
4/27/2018	9	14
4/30/2018	7	13
5/1/2018	∞	11
5/2/2018	6	12
5/3/2018	10	13
5/4/2018	11	14
5/7/2018	12	15
5/8/2018	13	14
5/9/2018	14	15
5/10/2018	15	16
5/11/2018	16	18
5/18/2018	17	13
5/21/2018	18	15
5/22/2018	19	10
5/23/2018	20	11
5/24/2018	21	17
5/29/2018	22	6
5/30/2018	23	13
5/31/2018	24	14
6/1/2018	25	15
6/4/2018	56	13
6/5/2018	27	13
6/6/2018	28	12
6/7/2018	59	12
6/8/2018	30	10
6/11/2018	31	14
6/12/2018	32	σ,
Ave.		13.1
Max.		18
Min.		6

### The Need For Off-Street Parking





Traffic congestion does not maintain the character of the neighborhood













### Stop the Demolition!

TWIN CITIES GERMAN IMMERSION SCHOOL PROPOSES TO EXPAND AT COST OF HISTORIC COMO PARK LANDMARK

TCGIS plans to expand:

- Potential population of 648 students and 100 employees.
- TCGIS claims that their wishes can only be met if the St. Andrew's church structure is demolished
- Expansion will magnify neighbor concerns, including nadequate off-street parking, Unsafe pedestrian crossing **Traffic congestion**

Save Historic St. Andrew's is working to preserve this symbol of community stability, which has anchored our Como neighborhood for nearly a century. Demand that TCGIS find alternatives to demolishing this classical architectural gem

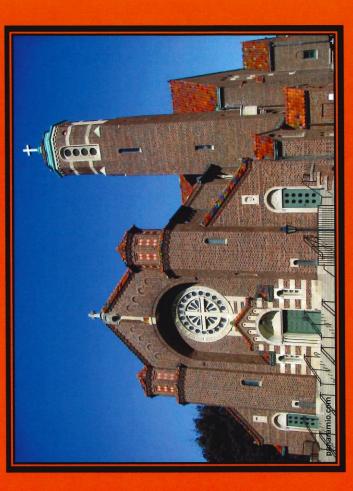
Once destroyed, It is gone forever!

Please voice your opposition by contacting:

Kelly Laudon, TCGIS Board of Director Chair at board@tcgis.org

Ted Anderson, TCGIS Director at tanderson@tcgis.org

Amy Brendmoen, St. Paul City Council Ward 5 rep at 651-266-8650 or ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us



cafeteria for the German Immersion School.

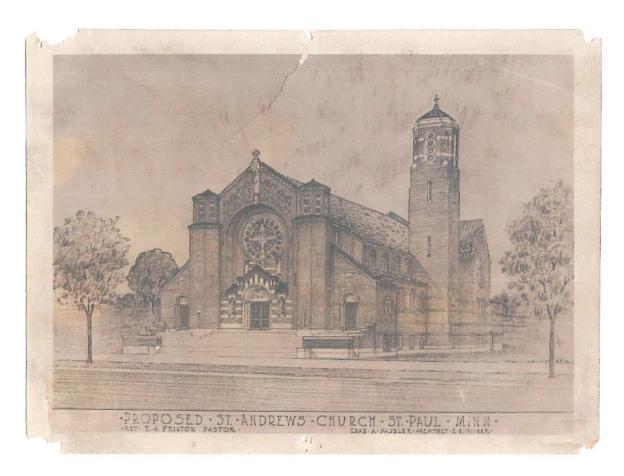
1031 Como Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota 55103

Engage our community. Respect our history.

Look for the "Save Historic St. Andrew's" group on facebook. For more information, action items, and updates, please join us.

All voices are welcome! Please sish our netition at www sonetition com/netitions/save.ct-andrews.church.ctructure bind. All voices are welcome! Please sign our petition at www.gopetition.com/petitions/save-st-andrews-church-structure.html





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©2018 Rivera Architects/TCGIS

### Roy Neal Testimony on TCGIS Variance & Site Plan

December 20, 2018

I strongly oppose the variance requests and site plan proposed by the Twin Cities German Immersion School (TCGIS).

While the variance requests seem minute—1% here, 3 feet there—tiny numbers can be deceptive. They hide the tremendous impact this proposed plan would have on the tiny residential neighborhood of Warrendale. If these variances are granted, they will start a chain reaction that results in the demolition of the symbolic heart of a St. Paul neighborhood. These small variances could alter the neighborhood forever. We should all care about that.

TCGIS claims their plan won't harm neighborhood character. That claim should not be taken lightly. Character is important and appears many times in the city plan and Como Park plans. Variances should be mindful of the impact on the character of the neighborhood. In fact, the Land Use section of the city plan says it clearly: "The City should maintain the character of Established Neighborhoods." It's hard to imagine a plan that could damage the historic character of Warrendale more. The new building would be a poor successor to the landmark historic St. Andrew's building, now found to be worthy of historic designation by HPC and SHPO.

Since the Zoning Committee Staff Report was written, the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) weighed in on this issue. They agreed with HPC's conclusion that the former SA building should be saved for future St. Paulites. "We concur that St. Andrew's church is an ideal candidate for local designation." St. Andrew's is a special place that deserves recognition, not demolition.

The city plan and the Como Park neighborhood plan call for preservation and sustainable neighborhoods. Both plans call for sustainable use of St. Paul's resources, reuse of historic buildings, and maintenance of the elements that define Warrendale as historic and residential. TCGIS' proposed plans violate these points. Approval of variances for the flawed site plan will violate the letter, spirit, and intent of the city and neighborhood plans.

I appreciate the work that has been done to examine the charter school's proposal, but the analysis of the proposed plan is incomplete, and many committee and staff conclusions are puzzling.

READ The zoning staff report says that the site plan needs to support the city plan. But then said that the city plan provides mixed guidance, BUT YET concludes the site plan "on balance" meets the city plan. That's a puzzling conclusion. The Comprehensive and Neighborhood Planning Committee notes suggested that the city plan is ambiguous about what to do when confronted with the demolition of an historic building. No it isn't.

In its list of ""High Priorities for Action" the comp plan lists "Preserve and Protect Historic Resources."

### Quotes from city comp plan:

"There are a finite number of irreplaceable historic resources in Saint Paul. Historic resources are focal points of the community...neglect, inappropriate alterations, and purposeful removal are all avoidable conditions. Policies under this strategy focus on how to preserve, protect, and maintain the unique character of Saint Paul's historic resources."

"Despite an appreciation for historic preservation and obvious examples of its economic value, historic structures and neighborhoods are too often sacrificed..."

The city plan is clear that the building should be saved. Approval of the variances will lead to demolition. The demolition of the church would violate many key strategies of the city plan. A violation is non compliance. Where is the ambiguity?

Some city plan strategies, such as sustainability, were not given their due. In fact, the city plan calls sustainability "the overarching theme of the Saint Paul Comprehensive Plan." Sustainability must be considered and even prioritized. Preservation and reuse is all about sustainability. Sustainability underlies Minnesota state law that protects historic buildings as natural resources that the public has a right to enjoy. Yet the discussions had so far in committee are limited and incomplete.

The site plan was noted as energy-saving, yet there was no consideration of the massive energy and environmental cost of demolition and construction. According to studies by the National Trust, projects like this can take *up to 80 years to make up for the massive carbon footprint and environmental damage they do.* The greenest building is the one already built. That should have been considered but was not.

The staff zoning report called the proposed development consistent with the Como Park plan's goal of maintaining a "stable, residential neighborhood quality with limited, sensitive development and re-development that enhances the residential quality of the neighborhood." What part of destroying a landmark in the heart of the neighborhood qualifies as LIMITED, SENSITIVE DEVELOPMENT or enhances the residential quality of the area?

The Land Use part of the city plan speaks about how schools can form "an identity for specific areas of the city." That's true, but Warrendale's identity is not tied to TCGIS, which is a recent arrival to the neighborhood. Instead, it is more closely tied to the St. Andrew's school which operated for decades.

Some of TCGIS' claims are also puzzling.

They claimed "the new building will fit more with the scale of surrounding structures." So, they claim that the proposed building will fit in better than a building that was built in Warrendale nearly a century ago and has been the heart of the community! That makes no sense and shows a profound lack of empathy for the neighborhood's history. They also claimed that the new building will be "less imposing" than St. Andrews—as if the removal of a grand, proud building is somehow a benefit to the neighborhood.

TCGIS claims that about 20% of staff do not drive a car to work, but they "attribute this in part to the fact that many of our teachers are from Germany, who stay for 1 to 3 years and do not invest in cars." I live near 2 TCGIS teachers from Germany. They have two cars. Parking is a contentious issue in Warrendale so getting the figures the right is important.

Any notion that TCGIS suffers "due to circumstances unique to the property" is untrue. TCGIS has used the building as a school for 5 years. In 2014, they claimed to be happy with the property, according to their own documents. There is nothing inherently difficult about using the property for a school—as they have done for 5 years. The property didn't force the school to add another section. The variance guideline makes it clear that it was meant to offer landowners relief from onerous or unsolvable situations caused by the property itself. This is not one of those situations.

Any fear that the site would sit abandoned if they left is baseless. The site has had a steady string of tenants from church groups, to SPPS, to French Immersion. There is no reason to think it would ever sit abandoned.

The assertion that the school did an adequate job alerting the community about their plans is false. Like most neighbors, I didn't learn of the pending demolition of the church until a D10 Land Use meeting in March, 2018. And no meaningful community input was sought nor included in the plan before or after that meeting.

Neighbors who organized offered to work creatively with the school to find better ideas for adaptive reuse that would fit the city comprehensive plan, and offered to organize a design charette to help find win/win solutions, but TCGIS refused. They are now radar-locked on a single, inflexible plan that requires variances to proceed, but neighborhood acceptance to succeed.

I am not against the school. I am against this harmful plan, created without community collaboration. I hope that by rejecting the current variance request or delaying a decision so the PC can better evaluate new information in committee will encourage TCGIS to meet with the community to create a better plan that respects the entire community.

Thank you.

Roy Neal

1231 Minnehaha Ave W

St. Paul, MN, 55104