



City Council
December 18, 2018

Addendum #1
Items Submitted 12/14 – 12/17

Meredyth Muth

From: Harvey Benas <hbuniverse@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, December 14, 2018 5:08 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Fwd: Christ The Servant Columbarium Special Review SRU-0088-2017

The Louisville City Council will be considering a Zoning Amendment to build a cemetery (Columbarium) in my neighborhood. My home is located at 840 Owl Dr.. My home and many others are currently zoned RE, which does not permit the construction of a cemetery. I believe that there are several reasons for this:

1. It is not an appropriate place for a cemetery.
2. The whims of the church should not over-ride the common sense of our homeowners and those that live within the boundaries of a specific neighborhood. Past city “fathers” understood this and made other accommodations for cemeteries within the city limits i.e. the cemetery that is situated on highway 42 and Empire Rd.
3. Our neighborhoods are bustling with children of all ages and the last thing we need is more traffic and unsafe roads i.e. the new crossing barriers that have recently gone up on Pine St. attest to the concerns of increased traffic in our neighborhoods.
4. Why and for what good reason do we want to change the integrity of our neighborhood. If this change occurs there is no turning back. The structure could grow without any restrictions.

In addition, I believe that this request for a variance from its current designation is self serving, and also has a for profit motives as the Church will make money if this is approved. Also I have yet to see an in-depth traffic impact assessment. I have only heard inconclusive testimony as pertains to this issue. I believe that there will be increased traffic through our neighborhood and there won't be any restrictions in place to mitigate these concerns. Please keep in mind that this new structure is situated next door to the new Recreation Center and that by itself will bring increased traffic concerns. As a result and at the very least I believe that a comprehensive traffic study, as pertains to increased traffic patterns in this neighborhood, has not been fully explored or addressed.

Furthermore, please make note that given the number of children in our neighborhood I believe the increased traffic will put them at greater risk. I also believe that it could have the potential of attracting a transient element at inappropriate times of the day or

night. Needless to say funeral processions can and will place a potential burden on our neighborhoods and the police force. There are no restrictions in place as far as I know.

If this variance is approved there is no guarantee that property values in our neighborhood would not be adversely affected. Quite frankly I don't want to live next to a cemetery. I am not willing to take that chance, would you?

This cemetery literally faces the front door and back doors of our community. I have lived in this neighborhood for over 18 years. If approved then the "genie" is out of the bottle and there will be no going back. I urge you to leave the neighborhood I love as it is. There are several cemeteries in Louisville that could serve the needs of the few that are asking for this change. I strongly urge you to reject this inappropriate request and that you leave the family oriented character of our community intact.

Harvey Benas
840 Owl Dr.
Louisville

720-810-7112



Bethlehem Lutheran Church

RECEIVED

DEC 14 2018

CITY OF LOUISVILLE
CITY MANAGER

Dear Friends on the Louisville City Council,

I write as a former interim pastor at Christ the Servant Lutheran Church in Louisville and as the present interim pastor at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Longmont. I want to voice my support for the Remembrance Garden and columbarium project at Christ the Servant.

Bethlehem Lutheran, where I currently serve, has had a columbarium in use since 2002. There have been no problems with the city here, nor any concerns raised by homeowners in the surrounding community. The columbarium provides a respectful place for people to inurn their loved ones' remains close to the church, which is an important part of their life and often the center of their community service and involvement.

Churches have often been the places to which families return to celebrate happy occasions like weddings and anniversaries. They have also been the places where families have turned in times of death and sorrow. Many churches have land nearby where they maintain a cemetery. It is only natural that, with the price of land becoming so prohibitive, there should be the alternative of a columbarium associated with the church.

My church membership is in Boulder – Atonement Lutheran Church – which also offers inurnment at a columbarium on church property on the corner of Baseline and Inca Parkway. I am not aware of any problems with the city or the neighbors at Atonement either. Property values in the area surrounding Atonement Lutheran have not been affected by the presence of the columbarium there either.

Thank you for your diligence in overseeing the concerns of the community, but you can rest assured that neither the property values of the surrounding neighbors nor the atmosphere of the neighborhood will be negatively impacted by this loving service that Christ the Servant along with many congregations around the world offer to their members.

Sincerely,



Dr. Keith Prekker

1000 W. 15th Avenue, Longmont, CO 80501

Phone: 303.776.3290 ■ Fax: 303.776.1494 ■ www.Bethlehem-Lutheran.net

Meredyth Muth

From: Nisa Bradley <nisa.bradley@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 17, 2018 5:23 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Christ the Servant Columbarium application - Dec 18 Agenda item

Dear Planning Commission Members-

I am writing regarding the application of Christ the Servant Lutheran Church to modify its building to accommodate a columbarium. My family are relatively recent members of the congregation, and though we do not currently have a wish for any loved ones' remains to be placed onsite, I am writing to voice my support for the project.

I attended the public meeting held at Christ the Servant earlier this year. I heard concerns from the neighbors on property values, which the church has attempted to mitigate with respectful design and landscaping. The church has also carefully considered a variety of the other less-frequently voiced concerns, regarding the fact that they do not expect traffic to increase; the limited number of expected inurnments; the fact that it is not a burial ground/cemetery, but is only a columbarium with only inert ashes; and that they have clear plans to enhance and maintain privacy landscaping. As you consider objections to the space, I hope that you will see that they have been addressed very thoughtfully by the church.

However, it feels like there's something more than property values and aesthetics at stake here. I'd also like to offer that a columbarium benefits the city regarding the connectedness of our members to the area, as well as others outside the member community who may choose to inurn their loved ones in our space, and the solace that it provides. Another very important part of this dialogue is to ensure that we as a Louisville community are maintaining space to respect - and even encourage - a variety, and sometimes a difference of religious viewpoints. In this case please be sure to consider the importance of providing a space to respect loved ones on church property in a way that is consistent with the values of that church, and I believe is also consistent with the values of community and family that are synonymous with our town.

I believe strongly that this columbarium will not only benefit our community, but enhance our property, with its parklike area which our neighbors frequently enjoy; and whose use of our parking lot, grounds, and recreational space are welcomed by our church community. The name of the church, after all, is "Christ the Servant," as the church is here to serve the community around it - this is simply another, very positive element to that story.

Thank you for your time,
Nisa Bradley

Meredyth Muth

From: Bonnie Brandl <bbrandl@ncall.us>
Sent: Tuesday, December 18, 2018 7:12 AM
To: City Council
Subject: Christ the Servant Remembrance Garden

City Council Members:

As a member of Christ the Servant Church, I am urging you to support the Remembrance Garden project. Our community has listened to our neighbors and redesigned our plans to accommodate most of their concerns. We simply are asking for a space for prayer and meditation to remember those we love who have passed on. We hope this will be a place for people to gather for comfort and healing.

Thank you for considering our request.

Bonnie

Bonnie Brandl
Director
National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life (NCALL),
a project of End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin
www.ncall.us • (303) 494-1682



Meredyth Muth

From: sue <sevans1917@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 16, 2018 5:23 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Christ the Servant Columbarium Special Review use, Case # SRU-0088-2017

I am totally opposed to the church request to build a cemetery in the Pine Street Park neighborhood.

I have lived in the Pine Street Park neighbor for 20 years. Having a cemetery here will damage the neighborhood and the quality of life of those who do live here. There will be more traffic, funerals will disrupt the peace of the area. On funeral days, our parking will be used by others. There will be additional noise during construction and during maintenance.

It will affect the home owner's ability to sell their homes at the price it should be sold at. Who wants to buy a home next to a cemetery!! Bargain hunters will love it. It will certainly reduce the property value of all of the homes in the immediate neighborhood and also in adjoining ones.

The church will have a new source of income but it will be at our expense! Our property values will decline. We will pay the price of the church having more income. We will indirectly be funding the church!

If they need more money, the church members can make bigger contributions or they can find other ways to get money!

Please do not approve this request.

Sincerely,
Susan Evans
661 Ponderosa Ct
Louisville, CO 80027

Meredyth Muth

From: AM Patrie <ampatrie@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 17, 2018 1:21 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Resolution 62, Series 2018 Columbarium project at Via Appia Church

To Louisville City Council Members.

I am a long-time resident of Louisville, I am a member of Christ the Servant Lutheran Church (CTS) and I am a member of the columbarium committee at Christ the Servant. I am writing in favor of CTS being granted permission to build the columbarium as proposed.

Here are some points to consider as well as some rebuttals to the incorrect rumors and assumptions that have already been submitted to the city:

1. The enclosed design will be in keeping with the exterior of the church. There will be no indication of what is behind the wall. There is existing soffit lighting will be sufficient, so no additional lighting is planned.
2. CTS already hosts funeral and memorial services and just because we would have a columbarium we don't anticipate people dying at any different rate! We expect the number of services to remain unchanged.
3. Some neighbors were concerned about what would happen if the church were to close permanently. If CTS were to "go out of business", the regional church organization, the Synod, would take over the property. The property would have value when sold, and the Synod would work to move the urns with ashes to a new site, as family members determine.
4. The term cemetery is very jarring and is not really descriptive of what CTS would like to do here. Suppose I have a neighbor who has decided she will collect all the urns of ashes of her large family. This is perfectly legal, since the cremated remains are inert and pose no hazard. Just because she has 2 - 20+ urns in her house on a shelf, or even outdoors on a shelf, doesn't make my neighbor's property a cemetery. She also would not need to obtain a permit if she is just using a standard shelf. My neighbor can spread cremation ashes in her yard and it is still not a cemetery. The CTS proposal is not for a cemetery as it has been traditionally defined. Imagine this columbarium exists and somebody gives instructions that say, turn right at the cemetery. No one would know where to turn because there would be nothing that looks like what people think of when they bring a cemetery to mind.
5. If a special permit had not been needed, this project could have gone forward and no one would have been upset because nobody would have known what was behind the wall. People who live in the area MUST already know that there are occasionally funerals at the church (3 services in the past year). While the vast majority of time there are cremation ashes, sometimes there is a hearse with a casket and a body that can remain there for a day.
6. This is not a money-making project for the church. We plan to charge a fee in order to cover the cost of construction and maintenance.
7. We originally thought it would be wrong to be selective in allowing only CTS members and long-time friends to use it, so we planned to make it available to the public. But the neighbors expressed anger with that

approach, so we are going to restrict usage. We wanted to offer it to the community as a way of outreach, NOT as a way to make money, since again, the amount to be charged was to cover the cost of the columbarium.

8. CTS has a good amount of land around the building. Neighbors often treat it like a park and that is ok- they use the playground, they walk their dogs or play fetch with their dogs, they play frisbee, they benefit from the aesthetic of the open area. What we propose to change will hardly be noticeable as a change to the space the neighbors currently enjoy.

We recognize that this is a hard concept for some people to accept. We are sorry there is disagreement about this use. We feel the church is an ideal place to build a place of comfort and remembrance and is part of our service to members to care for them cradle to grave. This is why old, traditional cemeteries were often on the church property.

In this modern era, the use of cremation has increased dramatically. There are numerous churches who have responded to this by constructing columbariums on their grounds. Some of them are in residential areas, some are not. Many of them are open and visible to the street. We are proposing something that is only visible and accessible from inside the existing building.

Please approve this project.

Thank you,

Anne-Marie Patrie
Orchard COURT
Louisville, CO

Meredyth Muth

From: Annette Pawlas <bb46@comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, December 16, 2018 5:51 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Remembrance Garden - Columbarium - CTS

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing as both a neighbor (within the 500 feet boundary) and member of CTS. I am in support of the columbarium. I attended both meetings that CTS held and my husband represented us at the city planning meeting. To me it seems that people have very diverse ideas about and experiences with death and it is important to be respectful of those ideas and experiences. As a result, I believe CTS has done everything possible to be respectful of those differences. Also, CTS, as a christian community, has beliefs in supporting members from birth through death and beyond. I think CTS has taken steps to create a remembrance garden that is tasteful and one that no one will see from the outside of the church and therefore is not offensive. I believe the inconspicuousness of the columbarium respects the diverse ideas and experiences people have toward death. Therefore, I hope you would pass this proposal feeling confident that all views have been met.

Thank you for your time,

Annette Pawlas

Louisville Resident (27 years)

303-981-2775

Meredyth Muth

From: Jana Zimmerman <jnoelz@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 16, 2018 7:14 AM
To: City Council
Subject: Letter in Support of Christ the Servant's Remembrance Garden
Attachments: Letter to Louisville City Council December 2018.pdf

City Council,

Please find attached a letter outlining our support for Christ the Servant's Remembrance Garden. Thanks for listening.

Thank you for your service in our community. You are appreciated!

Jana Zimmerman & Pete Behrens
821 Trail Ridge Drive, Louisville

Date: December 10, 2018

To: Louisville City Council

From: Jana Zimmerman and Pete Behrens at 821 Trail Ridge Drive, Louisville, CO

Re: Christ the Servant Remembrance Garden Columbarium

Dear Louisville City Council,

As Louisville residents, we are writing to **share our support of Christ the Servant Lutheran (CTS) Church's Remember Garden Columbarium.**

CTS is a vital part of the Louisville and broader community. Annually, they (we) share thousands of dollars and hundreds of hours within our community helping nonprofits and community members; they open up the facility for use by community groups for no charge; the grounds are used regularly by neighbors and community members including walking their dogs, playing soccer, using parking lot, and enjoying the playground. We are proud to be members of this loving and giving community.

As a good neighbor, CTS has spent a **great deal of time listening to the thoughts and opinions of the neighbors regarding this project.** To this end, CTS altered the location, appearance and access to the columbarium to be sensitive to those who feel uncomfortable by such a facility. The Remembrance Garden will be enclosed and only be accessible during weekday office hours and Sunday mornings.

Regardless of religion, death impacts everyone in our community and having choices in remembering and respecting those who have passed is an important service to our community. Our church community is requesting a private, secure, peaceful location for people to pay their respect to their loved ones. As a community, we believe it is important to take care of each other from birth to death.

According to the National Funeral Directors Association - <http://www.nfda.org/news/statistics> - the projected 2018 cremation rate is 53.5% versus 40% for burial. As fewer families today live and die in the same place, cremation is often seen as a flexible option for those who have moved far from family plots or hometown cemeteries. And while some choose to keep their loved ones remains at home or scatter them in a favorite location, others have requested the church provide an option for preserving their loved one's remains. Christ the Servant is attempting to support the requests from our members and provide this critical service for them.

There are several columbariums in neighboring communities, many within residential communities. **Columbariums, like cemeteries, are a normal, common and respectful community service. Most of the columbariums in Boulder County are open (no surrounding privacy walls).** Some of these include:

- Trinity Lutheran - Boulder - 2018 installation
- Grace Lutheran - Boulder
- Atonement Lutheran - Boulder
- Saint Aidan Episcopal - Boulder
- Saint Andrew Presbyterian - Boulder
- Holy Comforter Episcopal - Broomfield
- Lutheran Church of Hope - Broomfield
- Saint Stephens Episcopal - Longmont
- First Lutheran - Longmont
- Faith Community Lutheran - Longmont
- YMCA of the Rockies - Estes Park

The CTS Remembrance Garden will not increase the number of funerals. The garden will only be available for members of the CTS Community. CTS only hosts a few funerals per year and the garden will not change that. Further, many members using the Remembrance Garden will only have their loved ones marked by a memorial plaque without cremains in the columbarium.

The CTS Remembrance Garden is NOT a cemetery. Unfortunately, this designation has to be used but is misleading and has led to a lot of misinformation.

The CTS Remembrance Garden is not a money-making venture. All collected revenue will be used to create and maintain the facilities.

We encourage you to support this important service to our community.

Respectfully,



Jana Zimmerman & Pete Behrens
821 Trail Ridge Drive
Louisville