

To the members of the SCA board and the Stony Creek Community:

I agree that it would be best to obtain a stipulated agreement through the mediation process. It would be preferable for all parties to be able to avoid costly litigation.

Over the course of many months and again over the past weekend, I have spent a good deal of time attending meetings and pondering the issues related to the Legacy Theater having been granted a Tenant Fit up permit.

In order for the Legacy to function well without an even greater negative impact on our little neighborhood, I believe they should be granted a drop off zone in front of the theater which is the equivalent of 2 spaces and two handicap spaces in front of the theater. This totals 4 on street parking spaces for the theater.

However, if we grant the equivalent of 4 spaces to one business on the street so that they can function, how can we not grant the same to the aggrieved co-plaintiffs, who simply want a place to park in front of their houses during theater performances when there will be an enormous influx of cars into the neighborhood.

I have heard many arguments against this plan.

One argument is that if the co-plaintiffs are granted parking spaces, everyone else in Stony Creek will want them too. They may well want them, but they won't get them because they will not be able to demonstrate the same kind of extreme hardship, unless another business of the magnitude of a 128 seat theater wants to come to town.

Another argument is that many others in town already have a difficult time parking in their neighborhoods, so what are the co-plaintiffs complaining about? In my opinion, having no empathy for the co-plaintiffs and wanting them to be as miserable as everyone else, is a shameful argument.

In unusual circumstances, we need to make unusual choices. I believe this is such a time. It is in the best interests of ALL in the Stony Creek community to come to an agreement through a mediated settlement. Let's give Legacy the spaces they need to operate with less impact on the neighborhood, and let's give the co-plaintiffs the ability to continue to enjoy the quality of their lives as much as possible, given they will be living near a 128 seat theatre.

Laura Barr
11/7/16