

Public Comment Proposed Hotel Weaver Project



Tue 6/13/2023 1:17 PM

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I will be attending tonight's meeting about the proposed Hotel Weaver project but may not feel comfortable getting up to speak. I've read the Petaluma Building Form Overlay in Downtown document and have a basic understanding of it.

Simply put, the Hotel Weaver as currently proposed seems too large for the location. Any setbacks from the sidewalk or in upper levels to minimize its size aren't going to change this. A visual rendering of the hotel in place that I saw from a PPT slide presentation at a prior Zoom meeting really shows the mass of this structure. Next to Re Hardware it is huge and this will look oversized from just about any angle either up close or from a distance. For example, walk down B Street toward Petaluma Boulevard South and imagine a six storey structure there completely filling the currently empty lot. Its proposed size is out of place for the setting.

In addition the stacked parking seems to be insufficient for the hotel guests depending on room occupancy. In any case, where will the many hotel employees park? Likely on neighboring streets. With the proposed Bike Boulevard on Fifth Street, this will push parking onto outlying neighborhood streets such as B Street, 6th Street and beyond. I would like to hear more about how the developers think the proposed parking will work should the hotel occupancy be full (or near full).

Lastly, the Overlay document includes precedent images of other projects in downtown areas, and one of these is Chophouse Row in Seattle's Capitol Hill neighborhood. I've been to Chophouse Row a couple of times, and as I recall this shopping/restaurant setting is very well designed and fits in with the surrounding buildings on this street. I don't see any similarities with this development and the proposed Hotel Weaver, which visually will not fit into its surroundings. I can't speak to the other examples as I haven't seen them in person.

I am not opposed to thoughtful development in support of the General Plan Principles, I just don't see this project as proposed being a positive for our wonderful downtown with its unique character. Petaluma is a one-of-a-kind city with a charming downtown area. We are so fortunate to have this, and we should look closely at proposed development that may negatively impact what we have.

