

ANOTHER BAD LOCATION FOR THE VETERAN'S MEMORIAL

When I first heard about the township's decision to build a Veteran's Plaza next to the fountain on Chicago Drive, I wondered why ~~you~~ would spend any amount of money to put something of this importance on a busy, noisy corner that people can only glance at while driving by. For months, veterans and citizens spoke up about this not being a good location. In August, you finally listened and voted to move the location of the Plaza to either Maplewood Park, Woodcrest Park, or the Senior Center. And then in November, you ~~disregarded the August motion, and~~ voted to build the Plaza at the tip of 200 Baldwin. How can this be and how is this location better? And what about parking? Does this tip of the property you are planning on using include parking or will other saleable property need to be used for parking?

Putting the Plaza at 200 Baldwin was proposed because you listened to 40 or so brick buyers who want it to be at the original location. It was suggested that the brick buyers be contacted when the location was going to be at the fountain area, but that didn't happen. Recently, you were presented with a petition of approximately ~~120~~¹²⁴ citizens who are against the 200 Baldwin location. Are you listening to them? Do you really think putting the memorial at a busy, noisy intersection is in the best interest of our families (children included) and veterans? How often do you think it will be visited? In my opinion, a memorial at this location will be a very expensive "drive by". I'm sure it will be a beautiful addition to our gateway, but when there are other more sensible options, such as a park, I have to question how the board can justify making these decisions with our tax dollars. It's very discouraging to know that many citizens have put a lot of time and effort into communicating to the board the feelings of people that care about our community, and it doesn't seem to make one bit of difference in this matter. You were elected to make decisions in the best interest of the community. I don't think acting on the opinion of 40 people is in the best interest of the community. We will all be paying for the Plaza.

If you can make a motion and then ignore that motion two months later with another motion, it seems to me that you make another motion to put it at a more appropriate location such as Woodcrest Park. Possibly you could create a focus group to help you decide what is right for the community.

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