



March 8, 2017

Mr. Bob Springmeyer
Bonneville Research
170 South Main St. Suite 775
Salt Lake City, Utah 84101

Re: Bishop Place demolition proposal

Dear Bob,

On behalf of the Capitol Hill Community Council, I'd like to thank you and your client for presenting your client's proposal to demolish the structures on Bishop Place to the Council on February 15. The Board referred the matter to our Advocacy Committee which met on February 20 to discuss the proposal. This letter summarizes our response.

The Board strongly supports the improvement of Bishop Place to eliminate the hazards it currently poses and to provide housing in our neighborhood. Our priorities are that the project be beneficial for the neighborhood and respectful of the unique historical value of Bishop Place. That said, we recognize that the project must be financially feasible. We are ready to work with your client to create such a project.

In an ideal world, we would like to see the exteriors of all of the existing buildings on Bishop Place restored. They are all historically significant. The wood frame buildings are among the few remaining examples of adobe-lined construction in the City. If the developer deems it necessary, we could support the demolition of the wood frame buildings on the condition that they first be documented in accordance with the Historic American Building Survey (HABS) standards. The Board may be able to assist the developer in this process.

We do not support the demolition of the brick bungalow on 300 West or the brick duplex on the south side of Bishop Place. In addition to its historic value and handsome appearance, the scale of the bungalow is appropriate on 300 West, whereas the proposed pair of small frame houses would not be. The bungalow appears to be structurally sound. It might be financially viable as professional office space. The duplex is a unique structure and, thanks to its brick walls, has suffered much less damage than the wood frame houses. We are ready to help the developer apply for historic tax credits and other incentives to reduce the cost of renovating these structures.

The Board is ready to use its position with the City to support this project on the above conditions. It is our sincere hope that this project will go forward in a manner that will benefit both the developer and the neighborhood. We look forward to continuing conversations.

Sincerely,

Laura Arellano, Chair
Capitol Hill Neighborhood Council