

Dear Wayne,

Susan Reisler, Colleen Minaker, and I request that an emergency meeting of the Newtonville Area Council be called to reconsider the motion that was passed on Thursday, March 9.

This motion was made and passed hastily with false and misleading information. If you recall, the impetus for the motion rested on Kenneth Roberts's vociferous claims that Mr. Korff was determined to build a seven-story, 245-unit 40B development on the Orr Block parcel – no question about it, he said. He also said that he had spoken to Mr. Korff three times in the last two weeks. I requested fact-checking, because the claim sounded dubious. It turns out I was correct. During a subsequent unplanned conversation with Marc Kaufman at Star Market, he revealed that Mr. Korff told Tom Kraus on the phone that such a large building was only a possibility and that he hadn't decided on any particulars of such a development. Hence, the proposal that propelled this hasty motion was based on erroneous information. No fact-checking was done, no public opinion was taken.

Use of the term “negotiated settlement” in the motion implies two sides talking to each other. From what we learned subsequently, Monday's meeting will consist of merely questions from city councilors. No negotiation here. This motion makes no sense.

For these reasons, we request an emergency meeting of the Newtonville Area Council to reconsider this motion.

Respectfully,

Peter Bruce  
Susan Reisler  
Colleen Minaker.