

LETTERS

Plan an insult to residents

I am appalled by the latest version of the so-called Temple Terrace downtown redevelopment plan.

In this latest attempt to rescue a run-down area, a grocery store is the anchor surrounded by an auto parts store and a Burger King.

Is this the centerpiece of the area bordered by Temple Terrace Highway and 56th Street? Nothing could be further from the original vision for revitalizing our downtown area.

After countless meetings with the planners and countless presentations to the community, the city had a glorious vision for what the downtown should look like.

It had lots of green space. It had a bookstore, restaurants, city buildings and town homes. Of course, we all know the citizens of Temple Terrace failed to approve a referendum to raise the taxes to implement this grand plan, so they went back to the drawing board.

The back-up plan was approved in December. It still had green space and it still had the magic new urbanist design.

It was scaled down, but we still had something to look forward to.

The latest iteration of the plan lacks any elements of either of the previous plans. It is nothing more than a newer version of the old, run-down Terrace Plaza.

It is an insult to the residents of our city to think that this is what we need – or what we want. I am offended that our city council members “can live with it.”

From all appearances, the city has let the developer, Unicorp, the grocery store, Kash n' Karry, and other special interests dictate the plan.

This is not the proactive stance that we took a year ago. This is a last-ditch effort to develop the property, no matter what.

For the record, not only did I support the tax increase, but I would have been happy to pay twice what was proposed to bring the plan to fruition!

I was even considering a move to the 18-story condominium project overlooking the river that Torti Gallas had envisioned for our downtown.

I cannot imagine that anyone besides a homeless person would want to live downtown with this new plan.

Imaging stepping out on your terrace to enjoy a glass of wine late one Friday afternoon, only to see rats on the loading docks and trash in the parking lots of the supermarket.

Mindy DeVane
Temple Terrace