

Concerning the CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT FOR THE MCKINNEY LDS TEMPLE (CASE #CUP2024-04):

The P&Z followed our zoning rules and rejected the CUP. Unless significant design changes are done, I would ask that council reject this CUP also. Not a conditional approval, but a complete rejection. This request is so absurd that it's quite easy to just say no.

I would also recommend that the town not even offer up 42' as an allowable building height. The 42' height that was granted to another church only covers a very small portion of their building, and the building is on a low point of their site. Height measurements need to be specified from the average grade on a site, or the high point of a site. That 42' section is less than 35' high from the high point of that property. Stick to the 35' height in the ordinance.

As for the spire, it was a mistake to grant a 68' spire to the same organization on their adjacent property. It was a mistake to allow them to shine uplighting on it – they have been in violation of the town dark sky ordinance for over eight years. Since there was already an exception for tall spire on that site with the same owner, do not grant another request beyond the 35' limit. They already have a tall spire exception on their property - they shouldn't get a second one.

Do not fall for any “compromise” if they reduce their request some amount from their current proposal - but still above 35'. A 42' building and a 68' spire are already extreme compromises on the part of the town. On a lot where there is a 35' building height limit, a proposal for a 173-foot tall structure is an insult to our community. This is not the proper location for a facility of this scale. Other exceptions were wrong when they were granted, so doubling or tripling down on the arms race to destructive construction is not a solution. We need to move the other way from previous exceptions and maintain the 35' height limit.

It seems each of these developments comes with assurances of no imposition of additional traffic, stormwater runoff, excess lighting, or negative impact, but the reality is always far worse than the promises. This structure will completely change the character of the drive along Stacy Road. Currently you can see trees and distant vistas - even the full moon rising. An oversized structure will block the views by day and night, and impose light pollution at night. Placing a hulking structure directly in our view is an attack on the community values we've struggled to protect for these many decades.

Thank you for working through these difficult issues and working to protect our community.