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Sent: Wednesday, July 23, 2008 9:47 AM
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Subject: Carl Fisher Complex

Bruce

I'd like to thank you and Alex for coming to the planned progress meeting for the Carl Fisher complex last night. You were right to stop the back and forth arguing between those who want a skate plaza and those who do not. Glavovic Studios lost the floor far too many times and I blame CIP. They should have been the mediator of this forum and therefore in control.

Anyway, it is clear that this city has not done its job supplying an area for skate boarders and they came out in large numbers from all generations to say so. It was also clear that, although a skate plaza was a start, they want and deserve more. When you design something to be multifunctional, it doesn't do a great job for any one particular function. It was unfortunate that none of the Commissioners or anyone from the City Manager's office was there to see the community outcry regarding this project.

I feel that the architectural firm did a very good job in designing this project considering what tasks they were given to accomplish. It will be a long haul and they will have to go to both the City Commission and the HP Board for approval. Based on my past experience with other projects, the final project will look nothing like the one presented last night once everyone gets their say on the plan. I also know it is minimally 5 years away and probably closer to ten since it will be paid for with City Center RDA funds which have been committed through at least 2012. The skate boarders=20 expect and deserve something more quickly.

Outside of the CIP office, the Police Department is the only city department that can truly say what went on at this meeting. Max Sklar and Gary Farmer left after the presentation and didn't witness what you did once the floor was opened for audience comment. I didn't even see anyone there from the press which shows what little priority is given to skate boarding, arguably a very controversial topic in this city. This project is a very tiny bone that comes way too late and I believe is not at all what skaters really want. That was loud and clear. I hope you are able to pass along to the powers to be what you observed. My major concern is safety and that was the reason I originally asked Major Angel Vazquez to have someone from the police department attend and I thank you for coming. You are a true asset and always there for our community.

Sincerely,

Ray Breslin, president CPNA and CANDO committee member

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