Zionsville Town Council

1100 W. Oak St.

Zionsville, IN 46077

Re: Possible Land Donation

Dear Council Members,

My family and I have lived in Zionsville since 1991.

I have volunteered for Habitat for Humanity since 2000. At that time, ZPC sent a group to a blitz build in Americus Georgia. I made some new friends on that trip, and was introduced to the many merits of volunteerism. In the years since, I have worked on some projects in Marion County, but mainly with Boone County Habitat for Humanity. The leaders are first rate, and they get several hundred volunteers involved each year, including the recent addition of a Restore storefront on 106th street.

I have also enjoyed meeting, and working alongside the homeowners. They leave behind couch surfing, or expensive one and two bedroom apartments, and bring their families to brand new three and four bedroom houses with zero percent mortgages of $450-500 per month. Habitat carefully selects future homeowners. They learn to get their finances in order, and they provide sweat equity either on their own house, or earlier builds. Many go on to further volunteer with Habitat or other causes.

For 2022, Habitat volunteers and staff again have arranged their time, talents and treasures to build three homes for Boone County families who need them. Despite considerable effort, Habitat has zero lots at this time.

I have learned of a town owned property that you are considering making available to Habitat - property that would enable the construction of homes for a few needy families who have no other path to safe and affordable housing. I further understand that the Fire Department has used the vacant house for training, though I understand that THEY have other places to train. I further worry that a vacant house so near to a school is an attractive nuisance.

Perhaps Habitat is a "Square peg for this square hole". They can place families in homes on this property, where perhaps private builders could not. I feel that Habitat, its families, AND the Town of Zionsville would all benefit from the addition of some affordable housing. Countless citizens would get to volunteer in the effort, some for the first time.

Thank you for considering Habitat, and for all you do to guide the development of this wonderful community.

Sincerely,

Brian Douglas

774 Hanover Close