



**Citizen Effectiveness Exercise
March 4, 2008**

Case Study:

One of your neighborhood association board members has recently discovered that a new development is being planned for the neighborhood. It's a condominium development right next door to the old Mayrose School for Wayward Girls building, a structure that dates back to the mid-1800's. The new development is taking place on green space that the school formerly used as a croquet field. In fact the Mayrose School Girls Team, the Grizzlies, were the state champions from the years, 1890 – 1899 in croquet. The school building was closed in 1968 after several different entities remodeled and modernized the building for a variety of uses. The local landmarks commission has requested landmark status or historic marker and listing it on the national register of historic places.

The development will be approximately 5 stories in height with a total of 8-10 units per floor. Some units may be purchased and used as rental units as well as ownership. The development will require a lot with 100 parking spaces available. Landscaping plans have not been reviewed as of yet. A local modernist architect has done the building design and the building construction will be primarily sculpted concrete slab and aluminum sheeting materials.

Your neighborhood association completed a neighborhood plan 7 years ago with no mention of this particular location and any future development. Although the NP does include a mention of preserving the Mayrose School for future generations.

The developer has been contributing financially to the local City Council person that sits on the planning commission, the state representative for your district and the U. S. Congressman. The developer's spouse is the legislative aide for the U. S. Congressman.

What are you going to do?



Scenario 1

Your neighborhood association hates this project. You will do anything within your powers to STOP it.

Scenario 2

Your neighborhood association would like to see the old Mayrose School developed into condominiums instead of building on the green space.

Scenario 3

Your neighborhood association would like to lower the density of the project to 3 stories and only 12 units total.

Scenario 4

Your neighborhood association wants to have drastic input toward the exterior design of the building.

Scenario 5

Your neighborhood association wants the entire building to be owner-occupied only.

Scenario 6

Your neighborhood association wants the new development to have 1st floor commercial (or a mixed use development) so that existing and new residents will have additional services available.



Citizen Effectiveness Exercise

GOALS:

Identify what a “win” is for your group –

Write down the goal of your group –

STRATEGIES:

What are the areas that you can work to achieve your goals and what can you do?

Technical

Community

Government

Media

Legal

Funding



NEIGHBORHOOD
INSTITUTE