

June 16, 2015

To whom it may concern:

This letter acknowledges the Asheville Tree Commission's support of present and future land owners' consideration to save as many trees as possible on the piece of land currently known as the Collier Ave Apartment Project. According to the Evaluation Report from Certified Arborist Monty Wooten, dated 6/10/15, the land contains 23 trees with a dbh (diameter at breast height) of 18 inches or greater. According to Mr. Wooten, the trees have a monetary value of \$219,041. The value of these trees to the community, particularly regarding biodiversity, heat moderation, scenery, shielding, and wildlife habitat, is, in our opinion, immeasurable.

As volunteers appointed by City Council to advise them on tree policy affecting the City of Asheville, we would hope that any projects planned on this site would take into consideration the rarity of such a magnificent stand of trees in the heart of the city's downtown area. We would hope that planners would consider preserving as many of the old trees as is reasonably possible if development proceeds; the stand could add an extremely unique and valuable landscape element that could make it a singular property. We would also offer a free consultation with at least one certified arborist on our board to offer possible scenarios for preserving the trees.

Thank you.

Asheville Tree Commission