

Matt Martin

From: Frederick Ruby <fcruby@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 10, 2022 1:39 PM
To: Matt Martin
Cc: Jennifer Letz
Subject: Sunset Meadows -- Infrastructure for charging electric cars

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Re: File #s MP 22-01/SUB 22-01/MNR22-02

To: Matthew Martin, Principal Planner

Dear Mr. Martin and Planning Commission,

I am writing to comment on that portion of the proposed project that calls for 72-124 multi-family residential units. If the plans call for a standard surface parking lot to serve these multi-family units, I urge the City to require that a basic infrastructure for charging electric vehicles be installed for the benefit of these residents.

My concern about this issue is based on my current occupancy of an apartment at the new Oxbow Flats apartments located adjacent to the proposed Sunset Meadows development. Although I enjoy my apartment, I am discouraged that the surface parking area for all five apartment complex buildings (with three buildings still under construction) contains no infrastructure at all to enable a resident to charge an electric vehicle. I own a 2021 Toyota Prius Prime Plug-In Hybrid so this deficiency impacts me directly.

I appreciate that the City of Sisters has shown leadership in installing electric vehicle charging stations for use by the general public. In fact, I use the new charging stations in the City Hall parking lot to charge my vehicle. However, it takes about two hours to charge my Prius Prime using the standard Level 2 charging stations installed at City Hall. As a retiree I have the flexibility and extra time to charge my car in this manner but people who hold full time jobs need to be able to charge their cars at their place of residence for day-to-day commuting and normal requirements. Accordingly, all electric cars are sold with chargers that can utilize a regular household current to charge the car overnight while the vehicle is not in use.

At Oxbow Flats, the surface parking area does not provide any dedicated electric car charging stations, nor do the apartments contain any exterior electric outlets which would enable apartment residents to plug in a standard Level 1 charger for overnight charging.

There is a serious equity issue at play here as we undergo a national transition to electric vehicles. Where multi-family housing is allowed to develop without an infrastructure for electric vehicles, those apartment residents are relegated to a type of second-class citizenship with respect to this crucial technology. Those of us who own electric vehicles feel that we are displaying good citizenship by reducing our carbon footprint and helping our nation to reduce its dependence on foreign oil. We should be encouraged to purchase and utilize electric vehicles, but a situation such as that which exists at Oxbow Flats really makes ownership of an electric vehicle impractical for apartment residents. I ask that the City use all resources at its disposal to avoid a similar outcome at Sunset Meadows.

I am copying this email to City Councilor Jennifer Letz as I enjoyed a very positive exchange of emails with her earlier in the year concerning access to electric car charging stations.

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