

## Venard, Erin

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**From:** Jim Hill <jamesdhill@wowway.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 17, 2017 7:43 AM  
**To:** Planning  
**Subject:** July 19th Planning and Zoning Commission hearing on Agenda Naperville

I will be out of town on July 19 and therefore unable to attend the public hearing for Avenida Naperville. I've spoken before this commission several times in the past, so many of you will remember that I am a long time Naperville resident and currently a member of the city's Senior Task Force. Other members of the task force may be available to offer comments at the hearing, but in order to make sure our group's point of view I'm sending you my comments.

As we've reminded you before, Naperville has a growing senior population. Currently the city has 15,000 residents aged 65 or older, and this is expected to grow to 20,000 residents in the next 5 years. Many of these residents are looking to downsize from the homes where they raised their families and move into something smaller, more affordable and better suited for their needs as they age. At the same time, they want to be close to friends and family and to the all the services and amenities that downtown Naperville offers.

Many of these seniors have moderate incomes, and their dilemma is they have too much money to qualify for government subsidized housing at places like Martin Avenue Apartments, but they can't afford the high end independent living offered at places like Monarch Landing. Avenida fills that void for these middle-income seniors.

Another challenge that seniors, especially those that live alone, face is isolation. Being tucked away in an "old folks home" somewhere on the outskirts of town is damaging to both their emotional and their physical health. This is what makes Avenida so appealing. It is close to all of the downtown services and amenities, close to groceries and pharmacies on Ogden Avenue, and just a short ride to a variety of medical facilities. Avenida's residents would be a part of the downtown community, not set apart from it.

Our task force has met with Bob May and his team several times over the past year, and I think they've been very accommodating to the needs of our task force. We've reviewed with them our criteria for senior housing and this development meets many of them. I've also witnessed their efforts to adapt their design to address concerns raised by the neighboring homeowners, and again I think they've done a great job.

Avenida is important for Naperville's senior population. I hope you will find a path forward for it at your meeting. Thank you for your time.

Jim Hill