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Benedictine College Rezoning Tabled

(KAIR) -- A proposal to rezone property of Benedictine College has been tabled to a later date by the Atchison City Commission.

The three to two vote moves the proposal to be re-considered at the July 15th Commission meeting.

Commissioner Jack Bower says this will allow the Planning Commission to have two meetings to take the proposal under further advisement.

Commissioners Allen Reavis and Larry Purcell voted nay.

Reavis says the Commission vote was about re-zoning the property, not what was going to be done with it, and was ready for the re-zone to move forward.

The proposal would allow the college to change the location of the baseball and softball complexes north of Larry Wilcox stadium.

The 48 minute discussion saw points in favor led by school President Steve Minnis and points in opposition led by citizens Cathy and Rick Coronado.

Minnis says this rezoning request was made by the city back before Saint Michael's Hall was built in 2011.

(Play Audio)

Minnis added that the re-zoning to the planned district gives all parties more zoning protection and that planned parking to the beginning of the complex is close to the same distance as parking is to the Atchison Sports Complex.

Discussion ensued about the changing the location of home plates in the interest of keeping the press box away from the neighborhood impacted was thwarted when Minnis said it would cause the sun to be in the batters eyes.

Cathy Coronado expressed concerns on parking along P Street, citing that despite Benedictine's plans to put a fence along the whole street, people would still try to park at the required emergency exit like parking attempts at other campus complexes.

She also cited conversations she's had with how the current location of the baseball and softball complexes impacted the character and value of the neighborhood negatively.

Rick Coronado then cited several city codes he felt Benedictine didn't meet yet in their site plan.

(Audio Continues)

Coronado also pointed out codes that haven't been met yet that required set plans on a guarantee that surrounding buildings or homes wouldn't be adversely affected in property value or character and that street or highway access is of sufficient capacity.

Several other speakers spoke, debating on whether property values will be affected positively or negatively.

Atchison Planning Commissioners will take the P Street ball field rezoning up at their next meeting Wednesday afternoon at 4:30.

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