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# CITY OF West Linn

## Memorandum

Date: January 15, 2025

To: West Linn City Council

From: Chris Myers, Associate Planner

Subject: Public Comments Received for VAR-24-18 (Class II Variance Request)

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As of 12:00pm today, one party has submitted written testimony after the publication of the staff report. See attached document below.

If any additional written testimony is received, it will be forwarded under a second memorandum after closure of the written comment period today at noon.

As always, please contact me with any questions at [cmyers@westlinnoregon.gov](mailto:cmyers@westlinnoregon.gov) or 503-742-6062.

As a near neighbor to this address, I object to an approval for VAR 24-18 for a pool on 1490 Skye Parkway for the following reasons:

1. Engineering. This property is located on the downward slope of a steep hill, which is riddled with springs, as I am dealing with on my own property. A number of trees, formerly anchoring the slope, have been lost in recent storms, possibly destabilizing it further. An in-ground pool, which it appears may already have been dug before permits were issued and should be investigated, will disrupt drainage of rainwater and possibly cause earth movement on the properties adjoining or even further away from this. A complete assessment by an independent engineering company is requested before approval is granted. At the very least, a retaining wall should be constructed on the property above the pool as it is very close to the lot above it, which contains many very large Doug firs that could be weakened if their roots are affected by digging. Over the years, many large firs in the neighborhood have fallen because of similar construction.

2. Noise level. The backyards on this and adjoining properties are quite shallow, and thus our houses are very close to each other in the back. In my almost forty years living in this home there have been many children, including my own, raised in these homes. In every case, the children were taught to be considerate of their neighbors, and they were not allowed to make excess noise above the usual children's play. It's a joyful sound when it is happy play and expected.

The family at 1490 Skye Parkway is not one of those families. The children loudly scream and shriek continually for many hours when outside. On my Zoom calls, which I am on frequently, others on the call can hear the screams even through my closed doors and windows, making professional work difficult. Entertaining is impossible on our own decks because of the incessant continual uncontrolled screaming from the children when they are out. We have a playground in the nearby park where shrieking is expected, but not from so many homes close together.

This is relevant to this issue because, as any parent knows, a pool will invite even more noise, and as the children become teenagers, it is inevitable that there will be loud parties that could continue for hours into the night. There are young children living nearby and working people with early hours who will find this very difficult to deal with, and should not have to. Current inconsideration of neighbors by this family would make one assume it will continue if there is a pool.

For these reasons I trust the Planning Commission before approval will investigate further with engineering studies as to the stability of the nearby

properties if an in-ground pool is/has been dug and, as is true in nearby communities, require neighbors that will be affected to formally sign off on agreeing to this construction. For many years those of us in these homes have lived together harmoniously, and hope it will continue.

Thank you for your fair consideration of my concerns. I will not be able to attend the meeting this evening but will be watching on the provided link.

Margaret Keonjian

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