

Greg Brewer *for* ALDERMAN

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Shovel Turn Means Nothing Rockwell-Devon Project Still Not Going Anywhere

West Rogers Park – Despite Bernie Stone’s claims to the contrary, the proposed Rockwell-Devon parking garage is still months away from construction, if it happens at all.

Although Stone has pushed as hard as he can for the boondoggle of a project, several hurdles still remain for the developer before actual construction can begin.

The city council still must give final approval for the sale of the city-owned parking lots. Prior to approval the developer must pay the city \$166,000 to complete vacation of an alley. The developer must also demonstrate that financing for the full cost of construction has been secured. The developer is currently having financial difficulties and has been unable to complete several other projects. The developer will also have to navigate a threatened lawsuit that local property owners intend to file to stop the project.

“Bernie Stone can turn all the shovels of dirt that he wants. It doesn’t mean that this boondoggle will ever get built,” said Greg Brewer, an architect, planner and candidate for 50th Ward alderman. “This is a horrendous project that will do nothing to solve our parking problems.”

The stark six-story tower, with blank concrete walls and random window patterns, would hulk over Devon Avenue and destroy the character of one of the city’s most unique neighborhoods. The project is sponsored by Stone, and the developer would receive more than \$4.5 million in city land and taxpayer subsidies to build the tower.

Poor design and the loss of two city-owned parking lots could result in as few as 60 new parking spaces. These new parking spaces would cost taxpayers about \$75,000 each. Brewer has fought the project for two years.

In a recent campaign disclosure report, Stone reported a \$2,000 donation from the project’s architect, a possible violation of campaign finance laws.

“We’re going to stop this project in court and at the ballot box,” Brewer said. “Instead of huge buildings out of scale with the neighborhood, we should be looking at diagonal parking, the elimination of some permit parking restrictions, and other possible solutions that would actually solve our parking issues.”

About Greg Brewer: Greg Brewer is an architect and planner with 20 years of experience on large-scale national and international projects. Brewer is a project manager with Skidmore, Owings & Merrill. He is endorsed by AFSCME Council 31, the Chicago Federation of Labor, Edgewater-Rogers Park DFA, Loop DFA, and numerous 50th Ward leaders.

Brewer is founder of Citizens for Responsible Development and is running for alderman to preserve the character and integrity of our neighborhoods. Brewer, 49, lives with his wife Maribeth in their West Rogers Park bungalow. For more information, visit www.gregbrewer.org.

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