

From: Sindre Parks <sindre.parks@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 1, 2025 3:52 PM
To: Planning
Subject: Teanaway Court — File Numbers CL3-2025-001, SDR-2025-004, SEP-2025-002

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Attention: Planning Department/Teanaway Court

119 West First Street, Cle Elum, WA 98922

Reference: File CL3-2025-001, SDR-2025-004, SEP-2025-002 - Teanaway Court



Dear Planning Department,

We are writing as residents of 508 N Floral Ave, and as neighbors who care deeply about the future of Cle Elum, to share our concerns about the proposed Teanaway Court development. We understand the need for more affordable housing and community resources, and we support thoughtful growth. However, the current proposal—with several three-story buildings—feels out of scale for our neighborhood and inconsistent with the vision laid out in the Cle Elum Comprehensive Plan and Municipal Code.

Height and Compatibility:

Our neighborhood is made up of mostly two-story homes, and the proposed three-story buildings would rise far above them. That jump in height would dramatically change the feel of our neighborhood. We know the Municipal Code allows buildings up to three stories, but it also calls for designs that fit into their surroundings. As proposed, these buildings feel overwhelming and out of place.

Privacy Concerns:

One of the things we love about our home is being able to use our backyard as a private space—where our family can relax, gather, and where our children can play without feeling watched. With buildings this tall, people would be able to look directly down into our yard and the yards of our neighbors. With also having a clear view into our homes. Losing that sense of privacy would change how we use and enjoy our homes. The Comprehensive Plan talks about protecting neighborhood character and quality of life, and we worry this design would do the opposite.

Wildlife and Environmental Impact:

Another aspect we care deeply about is the wildlife that moves through this area. Our neighborhood regularly sees deer, elk, birds, and other small animals that rely on the natural corridors around town. Large multi-story buildings and increased density could disrupt these patterns, leading to habitat loss and reduced movement for the animals that residents have come to appreciate and respect. Part of the charm of living in Cle Elum is the connection to nature, and we hope future development can preserve that balance rather than displace it.

Comprehensive Plan Goals:

We've always appreciated that Cle Elum values its small-town character and encourages development that respects existing neighborhoods. Buildings of this size and scale just don't feel consistent with those goals, especially in a residential area like ours.

Neighborhood Character:

The zoning code for the MFR District requires design review so that new multi-family projects fit within the community context. The height and density being proposed don't match the established pattern of our neighborhood, and we're concerned about how much it would change the feel of our area.

Setting a Precedent:

We're also worried about what approving a project like this might mean for future developments. Allowing buildings of this scale in our neighborhood could set a precedent that makes it harder to protect the qualities that make Cle Elum such a welcoming and livable place.

For all these reasons, we respectfully ask that the Planning Department require changes to the Teanaway Court proposal—specifically lowering the building height and density—so it better fits our neighborhood, protects our privacy, safeguards local wildlife, and stays true to the goals of the Comprehensive Plan. We believe growth can happen in a way that strengthens Cle Elum without compromising the character of the communities that already exist here.

Thank you sincerely for taking the time to consider our comments.

Sincerely,
Ben & Sindre Foster
Residents of 508 N Floral Avenue
Cle Elum, WA

