

**MCP-Chair**

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**From:** Scott Bonney <zootpix@mac.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 22, 2020 11:10 AM  
**To:** MCP-Chair  
**Subject:** Two Bethesda Metro Center Daycare Play Area

**Categories:** Tracked To Dynamics 365

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Mr. Anderson

On July 30, 2020 the MNCPPC will review a request to create a large fenced play area in the plaza on the north side of 2 Bethesda Metro Center.

I strongly request you take a very close look at this proposal because I believe the idea will really compromise the public circulation in the privately owned public space as it connects with the larger plaza to the north. The developer plans to only include a narrow connection, and I believe the planning department has suggested it should be increased to 15'. Even with a wider connection, this link will greatly compromise the continuous flow of pedestrians between these two important spaces, currently 30' to 35' wide according to planning staff.

As you know, 4 Bethesda Metro Center has already received sketch and preliminary site plan approval for a high modified plaza around their proposed mixed-use multifamily tower. Their concept creates an enlarged interior plaza area that will be directly adjacent to the proposed fenced outdoor play area, and if the currently proposed concept is built, will really compromise the connectivity.

I understand why 2 Bethesda Metro Center might want this space to gain a sizable daycare tenant in their building, but the design of the fenced outdoor play area should not compromise the overall design and relationship of these two outdoor plazas.

I suggest that as a minimum, the developer should shift the play area fully to the west, and maintain a much wider connection between accessible public areas of the plaza on the east side. I know this might block the plaza side entrance to their office tower, but most folks currently entering the building from the plaza enter from the east side, under the canopy, and make a hard left into the building.

Please don't allow this developer to block the appropriate width free flow of public activity between adjacent plazas. I suggest you might even table the matter, and require the developer to show a revised plan that includes coordination with the much larger plaza being planned to the north. These two plaza's will form the heart of the privately owned public open space in the Bethesda CBD, and should be given careful consideration.

Thanks for you time and consideration.

Scott R. Bonney