

Behind The City Scene



Charles "Charlie" Richardson
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Sue and I went to King Soopers today and nothing happened! The Raisin Bran was there along with the doughnuts in the bakery and my lemonade in the cooler. We were not asked for money — either in the parking lot or in the store. I kept waiting for something to happen. I read *NextDoor.com* like many of us do and based on complaints about the store I was prepared for heavens knows what.

The albatross around my neck is Regatta Plaza or The Point at Nine Mile. We have asked the Federal government for money to build the pedestrian bridge from the Nine Mile parking structure. Several months ago I received an email from Kroger that indicated that groundbreaking would occur in the first half of 2018. I asked whether I could publish this and the reply was no we will get back to you. I have not heard anything further.

I said the other night in front of Sue that if this project does not get going we may need to leave Aurora. Apparently Sue took my comments seriously and printed out property listings in Wyoming. After laughing I told her to hang on to them! Nobody is satisfied with the apparent lack of progress.

On May 10 the Planning Commission approved all the applications. It seemed like we were on a roll...then nothing. A briefing on the project is scheduled for July 24 which is after you read this. It will occur in Executive Session which presents a conundrum. It is impermissible to discuss anything that occurs in Executive Session. I am going to ask for clarification of what I can discuss publicly. I am sensing that the turmoil in the retail grocery industry is slowing the project down. Nobody has come out and said this to me but I try to read between the lines.

A little bit of good news the old Firestone store has been demolished and negotiations to acquire the Key Bank land is moving forward. Meanwhile I have asked for a clean-up of the site including cutting the weeds along Cornell. I hope by the time you are reading this the site has been cleaned up.

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2016 Ward IV Town Meetings — held on the third Thursday of each month from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at EcoTech Institute, 1400 S. Abilene St., unless otherwise noted.