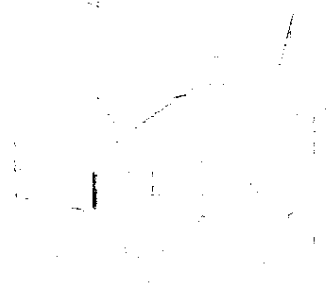


East Lawrence Neighborhood Association

P.O. Box 442393

Lawrence, KS 66044

eastlawrence@yahoo.com



April 15, 2007

Lawrence/Douglas County Planning Commission

6 E. 6th Street

City Hall

Lawrence, KS 66044

Re: Castle Tea Room SUP

Dear Lawrence/Douglas County Planning Commissioners,

I am writing on behalf of the East Lawrence Neighborhood Association in support of the request for a special use permit for the Libby Kruz-Fiorrito Foundation to restore the Castle Tea Room as a community space for our town.

Libby Kruz-Fiorrito left her beautiful landmark property and the funds to restore and maintain it to all the people of Lawrence. In that spirit, the foundation board members are intending to make the space available for weddings, reunions, memorials and meetings.

They have met with their immediate neighbors and with representatives of East Lawrence to explain their plans, take suggestions and listen to concerns. Their proactive approach to neighborliness is to be applauded.

Besides adhering to the Secretary of Interiors' Standards for historic integrity, they are also committed to full accessibility for people who use a wheelchair, a walker or are pushing a baby stroller. The board is budgeting to install geo-thermal heating and cooling systems, repairing wooden windows to make them weather tight, and insulating for added fuel efficiency. This is the direction our new buildings and restorations must go so we do not add more harmful carbon to the atmosphere.

A special use permit is appropriate because of the need to preserve the cultural history of the Castle through continued use as a public gathering place, the benefit to the larger community without negatively impacting the immediate neighbors and the one-of-a-kind character of the historic structure on a Mass St. corner lot.

Thank you for your consideration of this issue.

Sincerely yours,

Phil Collison, President

East Lawrence Neighborhood Association