

Who's in charge of beauty in Bethlehem?

The Bethlehem Gadfly 548 N. New St., Neighborhoods, Northside September 13, 2019

(2nd in a series of posts about 548 N. New St.)

“It would be worth the while if in each town there were a committee appointed, to see that the beauty of the town received no detriment.”

Henry David Thoreau c. 1862

Do we have such a committee?

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Gadfly was thinking of that Thoreau recommendation as he sat in the cheap seats at the Planning Commission meeting August 26, the one in which the 6-story building at 548 N. New was approved.



And he was thinking of a message that he has kept unanswered but undeletable in the top tier of his email queue since August 2 from a faithful follower who prefers to remain anonymous (but you know who you are, CB) in response to [the design of Skyline West](#), just after he posted about it.

What an unattractive building!! Why can't they design something that blends into the area/cityscape? Arggghh...



“Argggghh,” the sound of an Adam’s Apple collapsing under a relentless tourniquet ruthlessly applied by some mad serial Strangler.

And he was thinking of how another faithful follower Kim Carrell-Smith used that same verb *blend* in a way that he hasn’t been able to shake, a verb that’s been nipping at his mental heels [since June 17](#) (and that’s a long time to be nipped, let me tell you, blood was drawn).

One of the things that makes all of the Southside a cool and interesting place to live is that we have an eclectic blend of architecture, and we like it that way, it’s kind of cool, but what we don’t have are new things that completely depart from that old look of a neighborhood . . . those are just not ways houses were designed in the old days . . . part of the interesting features of the Southside are things that blend, they might be different but they blend . . . the biggest issue is scale that does not blend.

Blend . . . blend . . . blend . . . “Like the beat beat beat of the tom-tom /
When the jungle shadows fall” in the classic Cole Porter tune.

Do those buildings blend with their surroundings?

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to be continued . . .