

## Land Use Abuse

Council member Helen Rosenthal, Council candidate, Mel Wymore, and American Museum of Natural History President, Ellen Futter are a group of Fossil Fools who care little about the climate crisis we all face. They want to expand the museum by polluting our air and ignoring the global consensus on climate change. They are committed to erecting a gigantic building in Teddy Roosevelt Park, which would emit more than two million metric tons of toxic air annually. And, in order to construct this enormous wing, they want to use more than \$100 million of our taxes. They are also trying to fool us into thinking it's a good idea.

Rosenthal, Futter and another Council candidate, Mel Wymore, are ignoring the latest scientific reports which show that nine out of every 10 people are breathing bad air. And, they are oblivious to the failing grade for ozone that the American Lung Association has given the Upper West Side. They are promoting a construction site of 3 to 5 years filled with blasting, jack-hammering and scores of diesel-burning trucks, cement-mixers, and other heavy, air-fouling equipment.

These Fossil Fools also intend to cut down a cluster of mature trees in order to erect their building. So, in addition to all the pollution created by the construction, these air-cleaning elms and oaks would be clear-cut. Their replacement trees would take 30 to 40 years to grow to the size of the historic trees the museum would like to wood-chip.

Ironically, the Fossil Fools try to shroud their proposal in the myth that this building will advance science. They claim that it would provide more opportunities for more people to learn more about science. But what would be learned? That it is good to destroy ecosystems? That more pollution is okay if you expand your gift shop? That the air, light, wildlife, and flowers of a public park are less important than creating another event space for wealthy donors?

Recently, David Koch, King of the Fossil Fools, was driven from the museum's board by a petition signed by thousands of environmentalists.

More than 5,000 neighbors of the museum have already signed a petition against this toxic plan. Hopefully, Councilmember Rosenthal will be the next Fossil Fool to go. And, if I am elected as our new Council member, this fool-hardy and harmful project will be stopped.

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