

letters

Hospital visitors need housing nearby

To the editor:

The city planning department should be bending over backwards to help the woman who wants to build short-term lodging for family members of Kelowna General Hospital patients from out of town (Medical Tourist Housing Plan Snagged by Red Tape, Aug. 21 *Capital News*).

This is a perfect use for the five lots on Pandosy across from KGH. It's the right location, it's what people need, and the houses

haven't looked great since I moved here almost 17 years ago.

Instead, the planners quote the OCP and say she has some work to do (submitting a plan to change the OCP) before they can consider her project.

The OCP has seemed pretty unofficial lately—it may be rigid for residents and small community projects, but it seems pretty malleable whenever development corporations come up with

grandiose ideas. With the money they plan to make, they can afford the time and expense to hire consultants to help them push their projects through changes to the OCP, variances to the changes to the OCP (and then more changes later during construction), and neighborhood meetings. City planners have to be there every step of the way, and guess who pays their salaries? We do, as taxpayers.

This woman isn't talking

about making millions of dollars off of people rich enough to buy a summertime condo.

She wants to make a living providing a nice, convenient, affordable place for real people with real incomes to stay in while a loved one is hospitalized.

This is a really important idea, and I hope the city planners will actively contribute to making it a reality.

**Cathy Richards,
Kelowna**