

Trane, Andrea

From: tranea@cityoflacrosse.org
Subject: FW: South Library Building Future

From: David Polodna <dpolo@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2024 10:50:55 PM
To: Emslie, Julie <emslij@cityoflacrosse.org>
Subject: South Library Building Future

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Dear Ms. Emslie:

As a concerned neighborhood member, I wish to share some thoughts regarding the ultimate disposition of the South Community Library building. We have lived in the HTLNA neighborhood since 1989, and have seen it struggle and improve. As you know well, the City has invested in that improvement effort over the years supporting library services (until recently) and financing formal development of the park. It is important to realize that for the investments in the park to remain meaningful, the entire section of land including the park and library building must be seen as a single environment. The trees to the north and east of the building are consequential to the overall charm and function of the park: in fact, they appear to anyone as a part of the park. While it has been determined that the historical aspects of the building must be maintained, it should also be determined that the integrity of the park should likewise be maintained.

With the historic designation, the Spies proposal should immediately be removed from consideration since it destroys the building and, in all likelihood, would destroy the park as well.

The benefit of the Willow Grove proposal is that it would provide housing. The added structures, however, cannot be built without impinging on the historic integrity of the library building, and would also destroy the park-like aspect of the grounds around the building, thus injuring the park as well.

That suggests that, from the neighborhood's perspective, the most appealing proposal is that from Tostrud and Temp. They propose a respectable, non-threatening, tax generating use of the building (without altering the exterior appearance) while also not threatening the park.

Stacking extra housing on that small section of land, either without the library building, or with it, will in the long run prove to be a short dream, and it will diminish both the historical and recreational aspects of the property. In addition, if the City truly cares what the neighborhood thinks and feels, it will take into account the various uses of the park and how housing will impact those neighborhood uses. For instance, the school south of the library uses the park regularly. Are housing tenants going to support that?

I am especially impressed with Tostrud and Temp's commitment to fitting into the neighborhood and being a good neighbor. That ultimately is what is most important to HTLNA. Finally, from a financial perspective, the Tostrud and Temp offer is as generous as any of them. Therefore, I strongly encourage the Commission to accept the Tostrud and Temp proposal.

Thank you for your consideration.

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