

Krista Hamilton
1812 Park Ave
La Crosse, WI 54601

June 25, 2024

Dear Commissioners:

My name is Krista Hamilton and I am a member and past Chair of the Holy Trinity-Longfellow Neighborhood Association (HTLNA). I live two blocks away from the South Community Library and I led efforts to preserve open hours when it was still a library. I also coordinate a group that helps maintain the landscaping at the South Library Park and we devote many hours to keeping it a beautiful greenspace for the community to enjoy. The library property and park are central features in our neighborhood, they are part of our neighborhood identity, and a source of civic pride.

The reason for my letter is to remind you that the community strongly supports repurposing the library building. In just over two weeks back in April, HTLNA members collected 542 petition signatures in support of reusing the existing building. Of those signatures, 411 were collected online and 131 were collected on paper in our neighborhood. I submitted those signatures prior to your April 24 meeting and I am sending them again today, in advance of tomorrow's ECDC meeting.

Besides giving a voice to those who favor keeping this important building (now a Local Historic Landmark), our intent in collecting signatures was also simply to raise awareness that the City is considering a proposal to demolish the building. Without our petition effort, very few people would have even known about its possible demolition.

Your decision on June 26 could bring the most significant change our neighborhood has seen in the last 70 years. I and the other 541 petition signers urge this Commission to select one the two proposals that gives the library building new purpose and allows it to remain a central feature in our neighborhood well into the future.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista Hamilton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "K" and "H".

Krista Hamilton
HTLNA Member