

Elsen, Nikki

From: Amanda Jackson <amhjackson@outlook.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 13, 2023 1:27 PM
To: ZZ Council Members; Elsen, Nikki
Subject: Lincoln Historic Preservation Appeal

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Dear La Crosse City Council,

I am out of town and unable to attend tonight's public hearing regarding the designation of Lincoln Middle School as a historic site. This request was brought forth by a third party that does not have an ownership interest in the property, yet they were able to make a request that significantly impacts the property of another, essentially resulting in a taking. The La Crosse School District has met with community stakeholders and residents and found that community priorities for this property are affordable housing and community spaces. The School District has indicated they will seek a development that supports these initiatives. Designating this as a historic structure will make those end goals much more difficult. There is only one local developer historically willing to tackle the hurdles and burdens that obtaining grants through the State and Federal government to help off-set the increased costs that being designated a historic structure will cause. It will ultimately also impact the value of the property making it a less desirable and more expensive development prospect, which will reduce the amount of money that the School District is able to sell the property for, which considering that our City residents are also school district taxpayers, hurts all of us, especially the children of our city. There are significantly less restrictive means to achieve many of the goals of historic preservation than this, the property will ultimately need to be in a TID, which will require a development agreement. This could be a path to ensure that design standards and the most important aspects of historic preservation could be maintained without needing to have a historic designation in place. I cannot imagine if this were my house and someone applied for a designation in the 11th hour fundamentally reducing my property rights, imagine if this were your house, that is the system that has been created here. I would encourage you to both reconsider this decision here tonight and utilize less restrictive means to ensure the best development for Lincoln and to also reconsider the process for which property can be designated in the future.

Thank You,

Amanda Jackson
1616 State Street
La Crosse, WI 54601