

From:

John and Sangeetha Kelly  
304 21<sup>st</sup> St. S  
La Crosse, Wisconsin

To:

Members of the Common Council of the City of La Crosse

August 6, 2018

At your meeting on Thursday, August 9, you will consider our application for a Conditional Use Permit( (item 18-0811) to convert our property at 2036 Cass Street from "having a house" to "just green space," either by having the house moved to a vacant lot elsewhere in the city, or by demolition.

Both the Planning Commission and the Judiciary and Administration Committee recommended that we be given sixty days to submit evidence of a workable plan and firm commitment to move the house to vacant lot in the city; if we cannot, the permit would be denied, and the house would stay where it is.

This letter is to provide a **brief update** since we composed the original cover letter before the Planning Commission meeting two weeks ago.

We are now **vigorously pursuing the possibility of purchasing a suitable vacant lot within the city limits, and then supervising the moving and reselling of the house ourselves** (even if we merely break even, financially speaking). As a Planning Commission member noted in the meeting two weeks ago, we would actually thus be *increasing* the city's housing stock, because if we *can't* move the house, it will probably be used only as an occasional gueast quarters. Five of our neighbors/friends are helping us find a parcel, as well as a real estate agent at Berkshire Hathaway. We have received detailed advice from two outfits with experience moving houses in this city (Egge and Heritage), and will contract one of them (along with other sub-contractors for the various other tasks). If the city eventually approves all necessary permits, the moving would take place as soon as weather conditions allow in 2019.

Everyone involved is very aware of the importance of minimizing any trimming of trees or temporary adjustment of power lines, etc. during the move; thus, the **highest priority is that the new lot be located close by**, even if it is more expensive than other options. We are fortunate that the house has certain characteristics (including low-angled peaked roof, and no eaves) that help to minimize these disruptions.

We were recently reminded that two other acquaintances, the Simms and the Szymalak/Meyers, had considered purchasing our 21<sup>st</sup> Street property (just before we bought it), but did not, specifically because the Cass Street house was too close to it. And, we learned that, about ten years ago, the owner of a house (named Reihnhardt, we think?) near 24<sup>th</sup> and Main purchased *two* lots, and demolished the structure on one of them, to give her property some green "breathing room."

Also, **attached please find a letter of support from Mark Halter**, former owner of our 21<sup>st</sup> Street property, who now lives about five blocks to the east.

Thank you. We appreciate and share your commitment to the best interests of the city.

  
John Kelly