COMPLETE LIST OF COMMUNICATIONS HANDED OUT AT THE 01-06-2016 HPC MEETING

COMMUNICATIONS FOR CASE NO. HP-2015-L-01

Communications Received in Support of Historic Landmark Nomination

- Email from Sherri Brewer
- Email from Eric Jakobsson
- **Email from Robin Kearton**
- Email from Stuart Martin
- Email from K. S. McKinn
- Email from Becky Mead
- Email from Gale Walden
- Email 2 from Gale Walden
- Email from Eunice Weech

Communications Received in Opposition of Historic Landmark Nomination

- **Email from Joseph Wetzel**
- Owner's Memorandum in Opposition submitted by Webber & Thies, P.C. (separate document)

Other Communications Relating to the Case

- 4 1923 and Amended 1945 Sanborn Maps submitted by Alice Novak
- Excerpt from Section XII-5. Historic Landmarks of the Urbana Zoning Ordinance

COMMUNICATION REGARDING OTHER TOPIC

撮 Email from Maggie Wachter regarding Bus Shelter at Buena Vista Court

From:

Pearson, Lorrie

Sent:

Wednesday, January 06, 2016 6:34 PM

Го:

Andel, Teri

Subject:

Fwd: 611 W Elm

Lorrie Pearson, AICP, LEED AP Planning Manager City of Urbana 400 South Vine Street Urbana IL 61801 <u>llpearson@urbanaillinois.us</u> (217) 328-8262

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Alice E. Novak" alicenovak@comcast.net>

Date: January 6, 2016 at 6:19:44 PM CST

To: "Pearson, Lorrie" < llpearson@urbanaillinois.us>

Subject: FW: 611 W Elm

----Original Message----

From: Sherri [mailto:nanabubba1@aol.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 06, 2016 12:44 PM

To: AliceNovak@comcast.net

Subject: 611 W Elm

I am writing in support of the preservation of my grandparents former home at 611 W Elm in Urbana. The home that I remember was a entry way with deep woodwork. Turn left..parlor. Go straight, dining room. Big kitchen in the back where I learned about bacon, black olives, mixing ketchup & mustard together & frog legs Upstairs was like the Lion, Witch & the Wardrobe..Exploration at its finest. Every time I smell Jergens hand lotion, I think about my Grandmothers vanity in her ornate bedroom.

Every 4th of July, the horses assembled at their corner of Coler & Elm. I felt very lucky to have had front row seats for the experience of up close & personal with my favorite animal & meet & greet with celebrities such as Sheriff Sid. After the excitement, we hung out on the front porch in the swing, on the steps or the glider with flowered cushions. My grandma in her "duster" serving fresh squeezed lemonade. Yep.. For positive sureness, I support preservation of this home.

Sherri Brewer

Sent from my iPhone=

Pearson, Lorrie

From:

eastcoastsgrl@aoi.com

Sent:

Wednesday, January 06, 2016 6:21 PM

To:

Pearson, Lorrie

Subject:

Fwd: 611 West Elm Street

I thought I had another, less recent letter-this one from Councilperson Jakobsson.

See you soon, Gina

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Eric Jakobsson < councileric@gmail.com > Date: October 3, 2015 at 1:12:08 AM CDT

To: <u>info@jefferyspossarchitect.net</u>, <u>Kunkel@jsmapts.com</u>, Dannie Otto <<u>dlotto6@gmail.com</u>>, <u>ksmith@sbarchtx.com</u>, <u>AliceNovak@comcast.net</u>, scott dossett <<u>sdossett1@yahoo.com</u>>, metcalf matt@hotmail.com, eastcoastsgrl@aol.com, trent.shepard@gmail.com

Cc: Elizabeth Tyler < ehtyler@city.urbana.il.us>, Jeffrey Engstrom

<jmengstrom@city.urbana.il.us>
Subject: 611 West Elm Street

I am writing to add to my comments on the demolition of the Dutch colonial revival at 611 W. Elm Street. What I neglected to mention in my oral testimony was the combined historical significance of this house and the Ricker House, which is directly south of it. The Ricker House was built in 1892, at the peak of the Gilded Age, a time of tremendous economic growth and optimism, but also a time of great corruption, economic speculation, and economic inequality. The Ricker House reflects this period, not on the scale of a home that would be built by one of the great titans of railroad and manufacturing, but in that spirit of innovatively looking forward with little or no nostalgia for what was then the past. But one year after the Ricker House was built came the Panic of 1893, which marked the bursting of the economic bubbles of the Gilded Age and leading to various national reform movements. In architecture this led to the rise of colonial revival styles, harkening back to a simpler and (depending on how you looked at it) perhaps better time. 611 West Elm, built in 1903, epitomizes the colonial revival movement. Architecturally, this is perhaps less interesting than the Ricker House because it is less original and innovative. But historically it is equally interesting. More to the point, the Ricker House built before the 1893 Panic and 611 W. Elm, built after the Panic, together represent a profound turning point in American History. They are historically more valuable together than either is separately. If 611 W. Elm is demolished, we lose not only some of the visual context of the Ricker House, but we also lose the story of how these houses provide an architectural narrative of the tumultuous and important years in American history between 1892 when the Ricker House was built and 1903 when 611 West Elm was built.

I hope this is helpful.

From:

Pearson, Lorrie

Sent:

Wednesday, January 06, 2016 1:25 PM

To:

Andel, Teri

Cc: Subject: Garcia, Kevin FW: 611 West Elm

From: Kim Smith [mailto:ksmith@sbarchtx.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 06, 2016 1:24 PM

To: Pearson, Lorrie

Subject: Fwd: 611 West Elm

----- Forwarded message -----

From: robin kearton < robin.kearton@gmail.com >

Date: Wed, Jan 6, 2016 at 12:53 PM

Subject: 611 West Elm

To: Alice Novak < AliceNovak@comcast.net>

Cc: dossett.scott@gmail.com, metcalf_matt@hotmail.com, eastcoastsgrl@aol.com, trent.shepard@gmail.com,

ksmith@sbarchtx.com

Dear Alice and other members of the Historic Preservation Commission,

I am writing in support of designating 611 West Elm St, Urbana, a historically significant property. Although it apparently does not meet certain criteria, it is a part of our local history. The building is sound and solidly constructed of beautiful materials that are no longer readily available.

My preference would be for the building to remain intact and undergo restoration to the front porch. Even without restoration, however, this building is more beneficial to our neighborhood than a new apartment building would be. It would be irresponsible to our local history and ecology to demolish it and demolishing yet another house in favor of apartments would have an adverse effect on the surrounding neighborhood.

If at all possible, we should save this house. Once it's gone we can't bring it back, and that would be a loss and a waste.

Sincerely,

Robin Kearton 203 South Birch St Urbana, IL 61801

From:

Pearson, Lorrie

Sent:

Wednesday, January 06, 2016 3:25 PM

To:

Andel, Teri

Subject:

FW: 611 W. Elm

From: Kim Smith [mailto:ksmith@sbarchtx.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 06, 2016 1:39 PM

To: Pearson, Lorrie

Subject: Fwd: 611 W. Elm

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Stuart Martin <<u>s2rtmrtn@gmail.com</u>>

Date: Wed, Jan 6, 2016 at 1:36 PM

Subject: 611 W. Elm

To: "Dossett, Scott" < dossett.scott@gmail.com>, metcalf_matt@hotmail.com, AliceNovak@comcast.net,

eastcoastsgrl@aol.com, David Seyler <david.seyler12@gmail.com>, Trent Shepard <trent.shepard@gmail.com>,

"Smith, Kim" < ksmith@sbarchtx.com>

Cc: "Adams, Brian" badams4@illinois.edu>

Dear Historic Preservation Commissioners,

I am writing to request that, at this evening's meeting, you vote in favor of Brian Adam's (cc'ed) nomination of 611 W. Elm St., Urbana for Local Landmark status.

Please know that it is my opinion that preservation of this house and its "personality" as an exemplary single family residence of the period and the neighborhood is a far better option for the property than its demolition to make way for yet more multi-family units.

Thank you,

Stuart Martin

302 W. Washington St.

From:

Pearson, Lorrie

Sent:

Wednesday, January 06, 2016 10:28 AM

To:

Andel, Teri; Garcia, Kevin

Subject:

FW: 611 W. Elm

From: Kim Smith [mailto:ksmith@sbarchtx.com] Sent: Wednesday, January 06, 2016 10:22 AM

To: Pearson, Lorrie

Subject: Fwd: 611 W. Elm

fyi

----- Forwarded message ---------From: <<u>karamckinn@yahoo.com</u>> Date: Wed, Jan 6, 2016 at 10:06 AM

Subject: 611 W. Elm

To: "metcalf_matt@hotmail.com" <metcalf_matt@hotmail.com>, "AliceNovak@comcast.net"

< <u>AliceNovak@comcast.net</u>>, "<u>eastcoastsgrl@aol.com</u>" < <u>eastcoastsgrl@aol.com</u>>, "<u>trent.shepard@gmail.com</u>" < <u>trent.shepard@gmail.com</u>>, "<u>ksmith@sbarchtx.com</u>" < <u>ksmith@sbarchtx.com</u>>, "<u>dossett.scott@gmail.com</u>"

<dossett.scott@gmail.com>

Hello--

I write in support of the historic designation of 611 W. Elm. It is a great representative of an Urbana house and the interior reminds me of the recently remodeled Kuhny house that is on Busey/Indiana.

Since this house is so near the Nathan Ricker House, as well as other landmarks, I would advocate that it is an opportunity to increase the property values north of Green Street. To have this beautiful house re-habbed and made into a single-family home would be a win-win for the neighborhood and the city.

There are so many student-centered housing sites under development in C-U right now that it seems that there will unlikely be the demand to fill the available space. Why *this* lovely old home needs to be yet another apartment block, when there are plenty of non-"lovely" homes in Urbana near campus that could serve as a future apartment building, seems confounding.

I appreciate your consideration.

All best,

K.S. McKinn S. Orchard St.

Kim L. Smith, A.I.A. smith/burgett architects, inc. 102A W Main Street Urbana, IL 61801 Ph. 217.367.8409 Fax: 217.367.6725

From:

Becky Mead <beckymead@ameritech.net>

Sent:

Wednesday, January 06, 2016 12:04 PM

To:

dossett.scott@gmail.com; metcalf_matt@hotmail.com; AliceNovak@comcast.net;

eastcoastsgrl@aol.com; trent.shepard@gmail.com; ksmith@sbarchtx.com

Cc:

Andel, Teri

Subject:

611 W. Elm Street

Dear Historic Preservation Commission,

I am writing in support of the historic home at 611 W. Elm Street in Urbana, and hope that you will vote to give this building landmark status and preserve it from demolition. As an example of Dutch Colonial architecture from the turn of the century it deserves protection. It is a beautiful, sound building on the oldest street in Urbana and is directly adjacent to the Ricker House and other historical buildings. As such it should not be destroyed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Becky Mead

From: Gale Walden <gale.walden@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 06, 2016 3:45 PM

To: dossett.scott@gmail.com; metcalf_matt@hotmail.com; Alice Novak; eastcoastsgrl@aol.com;

Trent Shepard; ksmith@sbarchtx.com

Cc: Andel, Teri; jemstrom@urbanaillinois.us; kgarcia@urbanaillinois.us; Marx Christopher; Pearson,

Lorrie; Tyler, Elizabeth

Subject: house at Elm Street

Dear Commission Board,

This is a communication I wrote to my neighbors today about the upcoming meeting tonight which will determine whether or not the house at Elm and Coler is allowed to remain. I've given permission for anyone to read it out loud and was encouraged to forward it to the committee.

Dear Neighbors,

I am out of town this evening, but did provide the photo of the older version of the house. I have been thinking a lot about historical context, both personal and regional because a) I've been writing a memoir and b) my mother died recently and I've been going through a whole lot of photos like this.

This house was my father's childhood house, my grandparent's house, my very first introduction to Urbana, since we did not live here then. I couldn't find many pictures they could use because the house was always the background for people, as it should be. At one level houses are only important for what they contain and this one at the time I knew it contained only ordinary people--my grandfather a barber, my grandmother a piano teacher--my father went on to be a minister, his brothers, a jazz musician, and businessman respectively. One of them was captain of the Urbana High football team at a time it did well. No one who ever lived in this went on to impending fame--one criteria for looking at saving these houses. But this isn't to say they were unimportant people.

And so, I've been trying to figure out how to make a larger case than who lived here or personal sentiment to retain this house.

One is of course just an ecological argument--fix what you can fix without replacing if something can be fixed, and this house is still sound and an organization is willing to take it on and restore it.

One is neighborhood retention--in neighborhoods close to a University you usually have to fight to keep residences. Of course it would be more profitable to have apartment houses near the University.

And then there's architectural communal memory that is always getting lost--the place you pass by and don't realize it until it is gone. Joni Mitchell told us that wasn't a good thing long ago and I've really appreciated the organizations and people who have taken to heart that message.

I urge you to support those people, the surrounding neighbors who don't want this house torn down, and yes, my family, by writing or showing up tonight. One house might not seem like a lot, but there's been others before and there will be others after and each decision starts to impact a neighborhood.

Thanks,

Gale Walden

From:

Pearson, Lorrie

Sent:

Wednesday, January 06, 2016 4:13 PM

To:

Andel, Teri

Cc:

Garcia, Kevin

Subject:

FW: a little extra information about the house on Elm Street and the people in it

From: Kim Smith [mailto:ksmith@sbarchtx.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 06, 2016 4:07 PM

To: Pearson, Lorrie

Subject: Fwd: a little extra information about the house on Elm Street and the people in it

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Gale Walden <gale.walden@gmail.com>

Date: Wed, Jan 6, 2016 at 4:05 PM

Subject: Re: a little extra information about the house on Elm Street and the people in it

To: Scott Dossett dossett.scott@gmail.com">dossett.scott@gmail.com>, <a href="mailto:metchailto

eastcoastsgrl@aol.com, Trent Shepard < trent.shepard@gmail.com >, ksmith@sbarchtx.com

PS. My cousin, Dana Walden, was a founding member of the R & B band Champaign, which had 1980 hits such as "How Bout Us, How Bout Us Baby." The grandchildren didn't live in that house but we often gathered there.

On Wed, Jan 6, 2016 at 3:37 PM, Gale Walden <<u>gale.walden@gmail.com</u>> wrote: Dear Historic Preservation Committee:

Having just read the designations for the house at 611 Elm Street, my grandparents older house, I'd like to take issue that no one of local import lived there--my uncles fought in World War II, (jazz player with Dixie, photographer for Courier newspaper) my grandfather in World War I, (local barber) and my father, Reverend Donald Walden, younger by a decade than his brothers, was a pretty prominent civil rights activist in Chicago in the 1960s. His name is mentioned in several books and articles. I, the granddaughter, raised in Chicago, having moved back here two decades ago to help with grandparents, have a minor national standing as a writer, and that house appears in an upcoming memoir. I know this isn't the kind of of importance you are looking for--we aren't Busey's--I still wanted to make you aware of various levels of importance.

Thank you,

Gale Walden

Kim L. Smith, A.I.A. smith/burgett architects, inc. 102A W Main Street Urbana, IL 61801

From:

Pearson, Lorrie

Garcia, Kevin

Sent:

Wednesday, January 06, 2016 1:25 PM

To:

Andel, Teri

Cc: Subject:

FW: 611 W Elm St.

From: Kim Smith [mailto:ksmith@sbarchtx.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 06, 2016 1:24 PM

To: Pearson, Lorrie

Subject: Fwd: 611 W Elm St.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Eunice Weech < eweech42@gmail.com >

Date: Wed, Jan 6, 2016 at 1:12 PM

Subject: 611 W Elm St.

To: ksmith@sbarchtx.com, metcalf_matt@hotmail.com, eastcoastsgrl@aol.com, AliceNovak@comcast.net,

dossett.scott@gmail.com, trent.shepard@gmail.com

Please vote to give this property historic status...we don't need another apt. building to replace a lovely historic home in west Urbana. Thankyou, Eunice Weech

Kim L. Smith, A.I.A. smith/burgett architects, inc. 102A W Main Street Urbana, IL 61801 Ph. 217.367.8409

Fax: 217.367.6725

E-mail: ksmith@sbarchtx.com
Web: www.sbarchtx.com

LivingstonBarger

Livingston, Barger, Brandt & Schroeder, LLP

BLOOMINGTON OFFICE 115 W. Jefferson Street - Suite 400 Post Office Box 3457 Bloomington, Illinois 61702-3457 (309) 828-5281 • Fax (309) 827-3432 CHAMPAIGN OFFICE 2918 Crossing Court - Suite E Champaign, Illinois 61822-6163 (217) 351-7479 • Fax (217) 351-6870

William C. Wetzel Thomas M. Barger, III Christopher L. Nywelde Richard F. Stites Peter W. Brandt Thomas B. Borton Kirk A. Holman Michael A. Wozniak Thomas A. Jennings Elizabeth B. Megli Jonathan J. Bobell Ryne J. Takacs Joseph R. Wetzel Rachel J. Brandt Zane J. Breithaupt William R. Brandt (Retired)

Herbert M. Livingston (1898 - 1987) Raiph E. Schroeder (1927 - 1991) Thomas M. Barger, Jr. (1912 - 1992) James T. Foley (1931 - 2010) Susan H. Brandt (1950 - 2010)

Reply to Champaign Office

January 5, 2016

SENT VIA E-MAIL AS INDICATED BELOW

Alice Novak - Chair

Historic Preservation Commission

AliceNovak@comcast.net

Scott Dossett dossett.scott@gmail.com

Matt Metcalf

metcalf matt@hotmail.com

Gina Pagliuso

eastcoastsgrl@aol.com

Dave Seyler

Trent Shepard

trent.shepard@gmail.com

NO E-MAIL

Kim Smith ksmith@sbarchtx.com

Re:

Case No. HP-2015-L-01

Request to Designate the "Stephen S. Henson House" at 611 West Elm Street in

Urbana as a Local Historic Landmark

Dear Commission Members:

I am a local attorney and also a member of the Central Illinois Rental Property Professionals ("CIRPP"). CIRPP is a not-for-profit organization which encourages and promotes interests of owners and managers of residential real estate. I write this letter on behalf of the CIRPP to express CIRPP's position relative to the Application to designate the "Stephen S. Henson House" at 611 West Elm Street in Urbana as a Local Historic Landmark.

It is my understanding that before the Commission, there is an application by a third-party to designate the subject property as a Local Historic Landmark. While we understand the stated rationale behind the application, we respectfully disagree.

At present, there is a single-family rental house on the subject property. It is my understanding that the owner, Hunsinger Enterprises, Inc., intends to demolish the existing structure and replace it with new construction which will be a five-unit apartment building. It is our organization's understanding that the proposed design of the new apartment building was intended to compliment the neighborhood. In fact, the new apartment building brings life to otherwise often featureless buildings which may be seen elsewhere. In this case, granting the application to designate 611 West Elm as a historic property would effectively halt any demolition, and practically stall any re-use for the property. Additionally, granting the application sets precedent and means the Commission would need to explain to other neighborhoods why it was willing to effectively prohibit an apartment building in one neighborhood and allow an apartment building in another neighborhood.

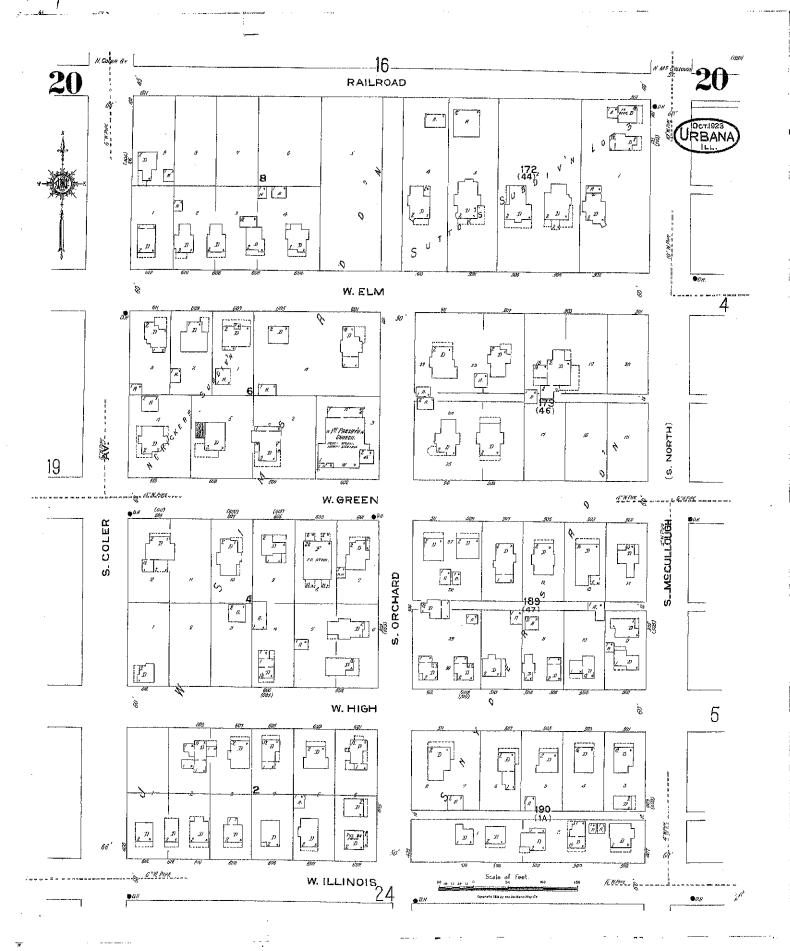
Moreover, in reviewing Section XII-5.C of the Urbana Zoning Ordinance, the structure at 611 West Elm Street does not seem to have the same qualifications as other structures which more readily meet the criteria to be designated as a Historic Landmark. Here, a denial of the application provides an example of the Commission's willingness to grant a Historic Landmark designation to those properties that truly deserve it, rather than weaken the designation of what it means to be a Historic Landmark in Urbana. On behalf of our members, we encourage development of property and business in Champaign-Urbana and believe that Mr. Hunsinger's proposal would be positive for the City, Neighborhood, and Community.

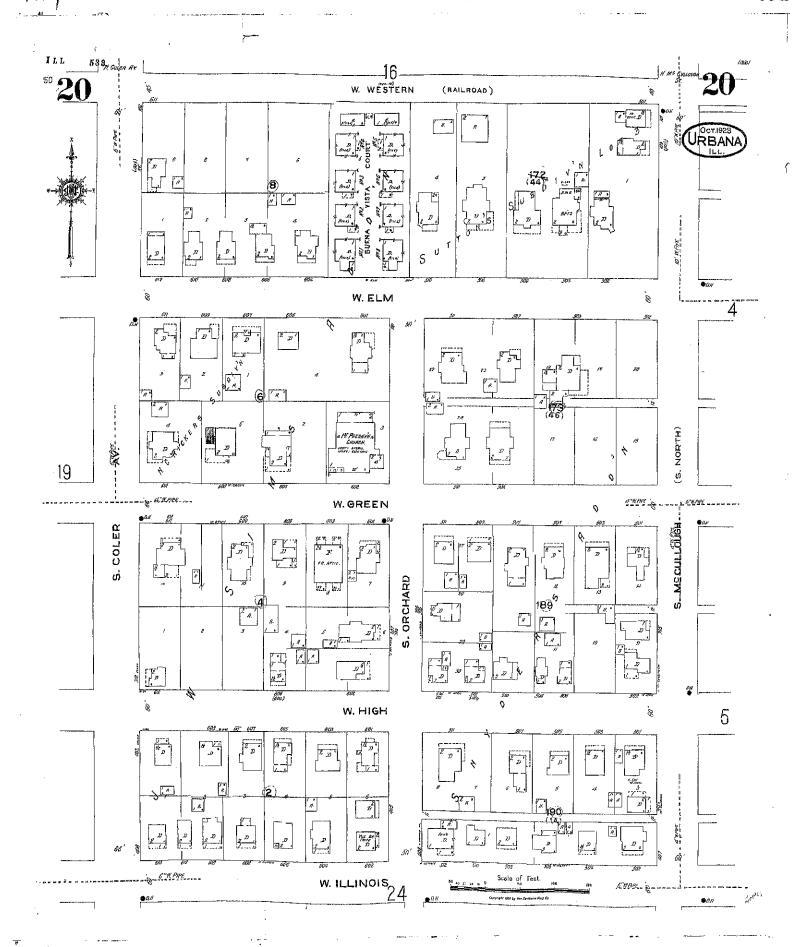
In this case, the owner of the real estate is attempting to develop the real estate while being compatible with the character and resources of the community. Additionally, the owner has complied with requirements of the Mixed-Office Residential Zoning District. Our organization respectfully recommends that the Historic Preservation Commission deny the application to designate the property as a local historic landmark.

Very truly yours,

Jode Marie Work

cc: Lorrie Pearson - <u>llpearson@urbanaillinois.us</u> Elizabeth Tyler - ehtyler@urbanaillinois.us





Excerpt from City of Urbana Zoning Ordinance, Section XII-5. Historic Landmarks

- C. Criteria for Designation of a Landmark.
- 1. Landmark Criteria. A proposed landmark must meet one or more of the following criteria for designation:
 - a) Significant value as part of the architectural, artistic, civic, cultural, economic, educational, ethnic, political or social heritage of the nation, state, or community.
 - b) Associated with an important person or event in national, state or local history.
 - c) Representative of the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type inherently valuable for the study of a period, style, craftsmanship, method of construction or use of indigenous materials, while retaining a high degree of integrity.
 - d) Notable work of a master builder, designer, architect or artist whose individual genius has influenced an area, or notable work of a firm or group whose collective genius has influenced an area.
 - e) Identifiable as an established and familiar visual feature in the community owing to its unique location or physical characteristics.
 - f) Character as a particularly fine or unique example of a utilitarian structure, including, but not limited to, farmhouses, gas stations or other commercial structures with a high level of integrity or architectural significance.
 - g) Located in an area that has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory.
- 2. The Preservation Commission may find that portions of the nomination do not meet the criteria necessary for designation, in which case such portions shall not be further considered.

From:

Pearson, Lorrie

Sent:

Wednesday, January 06, 2016 1:04 PM

To:

Andel, Teri

Subject:

FW: Proposed MTD shelter in front of Buena Vista historic community

Correspondence for the HPC.

From: Engstrom, Jeffrey

Sent: Tuesday, January 05, 2016 2:00 PM

To: Pearson, Lorrie; Garcia, Kevin

Subject: FW: Proposed MTD shelter in front of Buena Vista historic community

FYI.

From: Maggie Wachter [mailto:maggiewachter@yahoo.com]

Sent: Tuesday, January 05, 2016 1:45 PM

To: Engstrom, Jeffrey

Subject: Fw: Proposed MTD shelter in front of Buena Vista historic community

Hi Jeff. I talked to you earlier today by phone. I see that you are listed under "Board/Commission Staff" so I thought you would like to have a copy of my letter, below.

All the best,

Maggie

---- Forwarded Message -----

From: Maggie Wachter < maggiewachter@yahoo.com >

To: "alicenovak@comcast.net" <alicenovak@comcast.net">; "dorssett.scott@gmail.com" <dorssett.scott@gmail.com">; "metcalf_matt@hotmail.com" <metcalf_matt@hotmail.com">; "eastcoastsgrl@aol.com" <eastcoastsgrl@aol.com">; "trent.shepard@gmail.com"> <trent.shepard@gmail.com">; "ksmith@sbarchtx.com" <ksmith@sbarchtx.com</td>

Cc: Rebecca Rury Burlingame <ra>rburlingame29@yahoo.com
; Susan Reimer <dpsuz@msn.com</td>
; Amy Podlasek

<apodlasek@hotmail.com</td>
; Matthew Deters <matthewdeters@yahoo.com</td>
; Kate Stanton <kes3662@gmail.com</td>

Sent: Tuesday, January 5, 2016 2:31 PM

Subject: Proposed MTD shelter in front of Buena Vista historic community

Dear Ms. Novak and Commission members,

I reside at 6 Buena Vista Court.

I would like to inform you that the MTD has announced its intention to build a bus shelter on W Springfield Ave, immedately in front of the Buena Vista Ct parking lot. This decision was made by MTD without any input from us, the affected community, although we have been granted preservation status. While the MTD stop is perhaps located on municipal ground, the establishment of the shelter directly in front of our community violates the intent of the Historic Preservation Commission. For example, the proposed shelter will seriously marr the view into and out of the Buena Vista community. It will also

encourage pedestrians to cut through the community to reach the bus. The increased foot traffic will have deteriorating implications on historic preservation, such as disturbing the environment (which is an oasis for birds and pollinators in the summer), increasing litter and decreasing security. Even building a shelter in front of a single private dwelling would have fewer aesthectic or social implications than building one in front of a historic community of eight dwellings

Our small community at Buena Vista is very concerned about the proposed bus shelter. We hope that the Historic Preservation Commission understands the threat that this shelter poses to the spririt if not the letter of the Commission's principles. We are grateful for any support you can provide in maintaining the historic aethestics, atmosphere and cohesiveness of our community.

Yours,

Maggie Wachter

cc: residents/owners of Buena Vista Court