

November 11, 2016

Dear Historical Preservation Board

I received a notice regarding the HPC hearing for the house at 3112 W Kilbourn, owned by Ann Devitt & Ned Hoffman.

I am in support of the owners in this house placing an asphalt roof on their home rather than replace the current slate roof. The homes surrounding the property all have asphalt roofs and would have no impact on the aesthetics the homes within 200 yards of it. The home is not on a thoroughfare and will not look out of place.

Living in an urban historic district is a blessing and a curse. We are proud owners of beautiful old homes, many of which have been neglected and need substantial repair. Ann Devitt and Ned Hoffman have always maintained their home exterior. They have undertaken extensive landscaping and upkeep the of the current roof. The beautiful interior they have worked so hard to restore is being ruined due to a sudden leak.

Whose to know when the economy will change and our dream homes, that we have put so much time, effort and money to rehab and maintain cannot be kept up? All the homes in our neighborhood are underwater. The foreclosure crisis hit this Historic District very hard. In order to replace our roof 5 years ago, we took out a loan from a family member since we weren't able to do so from a bank.

To maintain the standards of the historic commission is a wonderful. Having inflexible standards will put home owners and buyers at a great disadvantage. Owners may not be able to maintain properties according to HPC requirement. Buyers won't consider moving into the historic district if they cannot be financially prepared to make future repairs and updates required by the historic preservation commission.

The modification to an asphalt roof be will financially viable for the Devitt-Hoffman family. Please allow the property owners at 3112 W. Kilbourn Ave replace the roof with material that is the current standard of the homes it is near and vast majority of the neighborhood.

Regards,

Barb Scotty  
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