

December 13, 2021

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To the honorable Chair and Commissioners:

The Milwaukee Preservation Alliance supports Staff's recommendation for File 211180. The Commission made a decision to allow the removal of the building's stained glass windows with the condition that they stay on display in the building with which they are associated.

The current proposal offers very little detail regarding the fate of the windows were they to be sold to the owners of a former Masonic Temple in Sheboygan, and the HPC would have no authority to enforce any kind of use in another jurisdiction once sold. More importantly, the preservation issue under consideration is not so much the preservation of the windows as artifacts in themselves but the preservation of the character of the former Scottish Rite Building, of which the windows are important elements. Losing the windows from the property, while preserving the windows themselves, would still diminish the integrity of the historic property.

We believe the standing HPC decision to allow the removal of the windows but incorporate them into the building to be a reasonable one based on proper preservation considerations while recognizing the practical needs of the project.

Thank you as always for your hard work on behalf of the people and places of Milwaukee.

Respectfully,

Jeremy Ebersole
Executive Director
Milwaukee Preservation Alliance