



December 7, 2010

Ald. Robert Bauman
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Hotel Projects Top Historic Preservation Commission's Agenda

The December 13 meeting of the city's Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) includes two distinctly different hotel projects, according to commission member Alderman Robert J. Bauman.

The proposal to develop a 10-story Marriott Hotel at N. Milwaukee St. and E. Wisconsin Ave., put forth by Wave Development LLC, would require the demolition of five 19th century buildings in the East Side Commercial Historic District, said Alderman Bauman, whose 4th District includes the sites of both proposed projects.

Gorman and Co.'s proposal is to convert two former 19th Century Pabst Brewing Company buildings in the Brewery Historic District into a hotel, the alderman said.

A review of each project's application for a "certificate of appropriateness" (COA) filed with the HPC shows a distinct difference in the level and specificity of details provided.

For example, the Gorman Brewery hotel COA filing includes detailed information in regard to what is being proposed for the exterior surfaces, and it also includes detailed elevation drawings with specific dimension and material details. Further, the Gorman COA also includes specific details on windows and alterations.

In addition to requesting a certificate of appropriateness for demolition, the Marriott Hotel proposal also seeks a certificate of appropriateness for new construction. However, in contrast to the Gorman proposal, the Marriott proposal is lacking in many details, and the renderings provided are conceptual and lack specificity regarding details about materials.

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HPC to Hear About Hotels/ADD ONE

Alderman Bauman said he “enthusiastically supports” the Gorman hotel proposal, which he described as “an excellent example of the adaptive reuse of an historic building” in addition to being complete in terms of the level of detail necessary to enable the commission to make a decision.

The HPC meeting on Monday, December 13 will be at 4 p.m. in room 301-B at City Hall, 200 E. Wells St.

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