

Elmer, Linda

From: Shannon Boone <sb1348@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 01, 2018 1:16 PM
To: Donovan, Robert
Cc: Elmer, Linda; Bauman, Robert
Subject: 2635 W Greenfield!

Alderman Donovan,

I am writing to request your support for the historic designation of the building at Layton Boulevard and Greenfield Avenue at Monday's hearing (Aug 6). My interest in protecting this building lies not only in its adorable character and historic style, but also in the importance of vibrant corners from an urban planning point of view. As you may know, I have worked in architecture and urban planning for nearly 20 years, always in underserved areas such as ours. Too often residents are at a disadvantage, especially in lower-income areas, not understanding how buildings affect traffic and crime patterns, or how beautiful and unique buildings spur reinvestment. Tim Syth's move into Betty's great old building is an example of this. We deserve this beautiful building in our neighborhood to define our corner, calm traffic and keep eyes on the street. Also, neighbors in the state and nationally recognized historic district need to keep the district in tact to retain the historic tax credits needed when making improvements to their higher-value properties.

I am a preservationist because I believe in living on this earth sustainably, something we rarely consider in our society's desire for all things new. Sustainability has become part of this neighborhood's branding, from the well-known solar projects here to the eco-hub at the Valley Passage. No one will ever again build a quaint brick structure with ironwork, stained glass and fluted curvilinear stonework on that site. How can we just landfill those expensive features and invest instead in asphalt which creates heat island and stormwater issues? Why would we build new affordable housing or commercial businesses when we have many units which are naturally affordable with only a comparatively small investment? Also, the last business there was successful, and now has a hopping new location on National Av. in Walker's Point, so there is no argument to be made that this building would be vacant if it remained.

I understand the needs of Notre Dame School, but also know they own the whole block and can find other ways to meet their goals. Additionally I think, especially if they are growing, they need to feel a part of the community and take into account how their actions can impact our home lives beyond the basic provision of education. The school does not seem to understand that human presence only in daylight hours during the school year, is not what we want for one of the most high-traffic points in the neighborhood, or that their choice of fencing already along Greenfield is an affront to the people on this side of it. It doesn't seem they made any attempt to gather neighborhood input before buying up a neighborhood asset and proceeding with their grand plan. Upon being notified of our opposition they agreed to present their plan to the neighborhood, but seemed to feel it was too complete to entertain any feedback or suggestions, negating the purpose of presenting it to neighbors. I am sure neighbors would be happy to help them figure out how to both keep the building and improve their school.

I could go on and on about the comfort of waiting for the bus there, holding the line on crime that exists on the other side of 27th, needed traffic calming (especially with Greenfield re-paving), etc. But I trust you understand all that and more as a long-term resident. I pray that you will support the historic designation to help save one of the assets that makes this neighborhood great!

Sincerely,

Shannon Boone

1315 S 30th St