

Lee, Chris

From: Deborah Unger <deborah781@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 6, 2020 12:09 PM
To: Lee, Chris
Subject: Forest Home Library

TO: Chairman Perez and members of the Committee
RE: Support for File #200865.

I grew up in Milwaukee and attended a number of Milwaukee Public Schools, including the now absent Walter Allen School, back in the early '60s when my family lived in a big lower flat on 7th and Mitchell. Though I now live in Franklin, I love visiting the Mitchell Street area to revisit my childhood and because, before she died, I would often take my mother to visit the area, which she and my dad had inhabited years before I was born. I would be devastated if the Forest Home Library is not preserved. Although I was not allowed to walk that far from 7th Street to go there myself, I always admired it whenever I brought my mom back to visit her old stomping grounds, or even to shop at Goldman's. I was fascinated by its design.

Today It remains such a unique structure, representative of the period, and spirit, in which it was built. I have heard enthusiasts of mid-century design describe the Forest Home Library as what would result if the famous architects Frank Lloyd Wright and Mies van de Rohe had a baby.

I think about how tours of the Forest Home Library complement tours of Wright's Burnham Block for tourists who care about mid-Century structures when they come to visit Milwaukee.

It would be a shame to forsake it now, especially when there are win-win options to accommodate every constituent's needs and interests.

Full disclosure, I recently became a board member of the Milwaukee Preservation Alliance, which I joined because I care about places and buildings such as this, which are a testament to the unique cultural and civic-mindedness that has been a hallmark of the Milwaukee I have always known.

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