

AGENDA # 8

City of Madison, Wisconsin

REPORT OF: URBAN DESIGN COMMISSION	PRESENTED: February 11, 2015
TITLE: 718 Gilmore Street – PD, Addition to “Wingra School” to Improve Accessibility, Consolidate Administrative Functions and Provide a Supervised Entry Sequence. 13 th Ald. Dist. (37170)	REFERRED: REREFERRED: REPORTED BACK:
AUTHOR: Alan J. Martin, Secretary	ADOPTED: POF:
DATED: February 11, 2015	ID NUMBER:

Members present were: Richard Wagner, Chair; Cliff Goodhart, Tom DeChant, John Harrington, Richard Slayton, Lauren Cnare, Melissa Huggins and Dawn O’Kroley.

SUMMARY:

At its meeting of February 11, 2015, the Urban Design Commission **RECEIVED AN INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION** for a PD, addition to “Wingra School” located at 718 Gilmore Street. Appearing on behalf of the project were Jon Robelia and Paul Raisleger. The addition is on the north side of the building where there is currently an alleyway between Western Avenue and Gilmore Street. The school discourages traffic through there but it is paved. Right now the pedestrian flow from the street to the school entrance makes everyone pass through that parking area, so they are separating the bicycle and pedestrian traffic from the parking function. They are losing a lot of impervious surface but it is making it a much safer environment for the students and parents, and the school is OK with the reduced amount of parking. The first floor of the addition is almost entirely administrative functions and the second floor is mostly gymnasium. The addition is intended to be separated from the existing building by a firewall. The brick will be similar to the existing. They do have an entry piece that calls out the entry similar to the piece on the Monroe Street side without being the same shape. The windows are aluminum clad in red to match the windows the school just replaced not too long ago. They will be re-landscaping the entire alleyway by adding impervious surface because it currently has drainage issues.

Comments and questions from the Commission were as follows:

- The County will soon be taking down an old sanatorium (Lakeview). I don’t think it’s a brick match, but I’ll send you a photo. The brick won’t match, so maybe you give yourself a little breathing room if it were all glass. It’s such a small addition too, you don’t want to be so different in character.
- I wish you didn’t have to build a new fire wall, because I almost wish your stairs on the ends were just built up against the old brick walls with glass and then you just clip right into it.
- Since you’re taking away some parking does the neighborhood have any concerns?
 - There is, Traffic has some concerns and they’re taking a look at it right now. It’s not used now as a drop-off/pick-up location.
- Because all these punched small volumes are reminiscent of smaller scale classrooms, had you looked at putting one larger horizontal opening that kind of highlights that gym as one big space?

- No I hadn't, but we can though.
- We're trying to keep them smaller and horizontal in keeping with the rest.
- Then you enter under this big opening that symbolizes that large opening above it, which I'm assuming will remain. Then you kind of celebrate that being horizontal as your entry feature.
- Consider something over the opening, without compromising the architecture, for people waiting in a rain situation.
- If that entire second floor became one big volume that projected, you could stand under it the whole length.

ACTION:

Since this was an **INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION** no formal action was taken by the Commission.

URBAN DESIGN COMMISSION PROJECT RATING FOR: 718 Gilmore Street

	Site Plan	Architecture	Landscape Plan	Site Amenities, Lighting, Etc.	Signs	Circulation (Pedestrian, Vehicular)	Urban Context	Overall Rating
Member Ratings		6	7				7	