

From: Joe Lusson
Sent: Friday, September 13, 2013 5:33 PM
To: Stouder, Heather; Parks, Timothy
Subject: Protect Lamp House as city treasure

Heather and Tim,
Please share the following with the members of the Plan Commission for the Sept 16 meeting:

Commissioners,

I urge you to view the Frank Lloyd Wright Lamp House as a city treasure to be celebrated. It was designed to be enclosed among scale-appropriate houses, giving it a secluded feel. It was not meant to be squeezed and overwhelmed by six-story or taller apartment buildings, cutting off its view and light.

With so many apartments being built downtown, are you perhaps worried as I am that we may be approaching a bubble of too many apartments? Do we really need the six-story block of apartments as proposed on N. Webster Street that would make the Lamp House's existence even less pleasant?

The development-for-profit community will cry about the downtown plan and how we need to be consistent with it. But just months ago, on Langdon Street, they wanted to ignore the downtown plan. Let's not be distracted from the real treasure here: this beautiful Frank Lloyd Wright house.

The handsome houses on Webster Street should remain and be restored. What gems they could be! Cream brick, with stone foundations. The clapboard house on the corner with E. Mifflin is a treat to the eyes, even in its current state. If you must allow someone to build an apartment building, please separate it into smaller pieces, and keep it at three stories or fewer. Leave the wonderful house at Webster and Mifflin alone. The scale of these houses allows the Lamp House to be pleasant to be in.

Even more important is the E. Mifflin Street approach to the Lamp House. There is some real breathing room between those houses, and a healthy view of Lake Mendota over them. They should also be restored. Nicely restored houses there would rent for healthy amounts, or be sold to owner occupants, or be occupied by professional services.

I support the proposed full-block plan for the streets surrounding the Lamp House. Madison rightly celebrates the Frank Lloyd Wright-inspired Monona Terrace Convention Center. I suggest we take that inspiration, walk a few blocks over to N. Webster and E. Mifflin where we have a **real** Frank Lloyd Wright treasure, and embrace it.

Thank you,

Joe Lusson
■ E. Gorham Street