

**Dennis C. Davidsaver
624 West Shore Dr.
Madison, WI 53715
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April 6, 2010

Madison Landmarks Commission
C/O City of Madison
Madison Municipal Building
215 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Madison, WI 53701


Dear Landmarks Commission Member:

At your April 14th meeting I encourage you to vote in support of the proposed Edgewater renovation and expansion. Among the issues raised by opponents is the mass and volume of the new tower, a concern which no longer has merit. Listening to neighborhood concerns, the developer has downsized the project and relocated the new tower, increasing the distance from the original Edgewater tower to open up an even larger lake view, overlooking a terrace leading down to the water for all to access and enjoy.

Several neighborhoods, including my own lakeside neighborhood, have facilitated commercial developments. They keep badly needed jobs and economic development within our city limits, while providing for the growing need for retail, professional services, health care, and recreational opportunities. Further, done right, such developments will bring new features and add to the vitality of the immediate neighborhood, leading to more positive investment. In the Edgewater's case, we can expect it will attract more permanent residents to a neighborhood which is overwhelmingly non-owner occupied, along with more renovation to the residential structures and a general upgrade to the area through greater pride in ownership.

Unlike many of the uninspiring structures that were constructed on Langdon St. and in the Mansion Hill district over the past decades, the architecture of the Edgewater is classic and the amenities that that it will offer are substantial. The Edgewater is historic as will be the new tower. It should be built as Madison moves forward.

Sincerely,


Dennis C. Davidsaver

CC: City Staff

From: peter fiala [mailto:toofarunderwater@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, April 09, 2010 12:04 PM
To: Cnare, Rebecca
Cc: ALL ALDERS
Subject: Edgewater Discussion on April 14th

Rebecca,

Please share this message with the Landmarks Commissioners:

Months ago I wrote to voice my concerns about the Edgewater Hotel development. At that point the highest proposed height was 11 stories above Wisconsin Avenue level. Now that part is roughly 9 stories and is still outside the bounds of the acceptable height limit of the neighborhood. The building is simply too big.

As a resident of 225 E. Lakelawn Place, which is roughly 4 blocks from the proposed sight, it troubles me that the Edgewater could endanger the house that I live in as well as the neighborhood in general.

As Madison becomes more dense we are in danger of losing some fine historic houses. We should not forget to remember our past architecture and the history of our city, which is embodied in our buildings. I am in favor of increasing density but we should do this smartly and without compromising our historic buildings and public access to the lake.

Aside from that, I just don't see how the Edgewater qualifies as a special case. Although it is a historic building that should be remodeled and refined, it is not close enough to the businesses of State Street for most people to walk to, nor Monona Terrace. From what I've read and according to the conversations I've had and the buzz around town, the hotel is not the most important concern in the city to deserve \$14 million in TIF funds. I would say revamping the East Washington corridor and South Park Street is much more important.

Furthermore, can Wisconsin Avenue and Langdon Street accommodate the cars, busses and delivery trucks associated with a larger hotel? So far that I've seen there is not enough parking or room for busses and delivery trucks to maneuver. I'm also afraid Madison's walkability would be overshadowed by a city filled with cars!

In closing I would like the city government to be proactive in its historical preservation. Madison has an identity and it is lost when a historic building is lost. Going through with the Edgewater plan as it stands would endanger the city's identity. Please listen to the Landmarks Commission's recommendations.

Thank you,
Peter Fiala

225 E Lakelawn Place
Madison, WI 53703