

CITY OF MADISON ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

VARIANCE APPLICATION

\$300 Filing Fee

Ensure all information is **typed** or legibly **printed** using blue or black ink.

Address of Subje	ct Property:3330 Atwood	l Ave, Madison WI 53704		
Name of Owner:	Olbrich Botanical Gard	ens, City of Madison Pa	rks	
Address of Owne	r (if different than above):	210 Martin Luther King	Jr.Blvd., Room 104	
		Madison, WI 53703		
Daytime Phone:	(608) 266-4711	Evening Phone:		
Email Address: _	EKnepp@cityofmadison.com	m		
~	Eric Knepp, Superintend	lent of Parks Division		
Name of Applicar	nt (Owner's Representative)	Randy Wiesner		
Address of Applicant: City Engineering Division, Facility Management				
, (ad, 556 5.) .pp		King Jr. Blvd., Room 1	.15, Madison, WI 53703	
Daytime Phone:	(608) 267-8679	Evening Phone:		
Email Address: RWiesner@cityofmadison.com				
Description of Re	equested Variance: Reques	sting a variance of the	Sugar Ave. side yard set back	
from the required 30'-0" to 5'-0".				
			(See reverse side for more instructions)	
	FC	OR OFFICE USE ONLY		
Amount Paid:		Hearing Date:	2-8-18	
Receipt:		Published Date: _	2-1-18	
Filing Date:	1-17-18	Appeal Number: _ GQ:	LNDVAR-2018-00002	
Received By:	<u>GMI</u>	GQ: Code Section(s):	26-26-(3)	
Parcel Number: Zoning District:	671008101041 PR	Code Section(s)	J8,073 (3)	
Alder District:				
	- 100mm			

Application Requirements

Please provide the following Information (Please note any boxes left uncheck below could result in a processing delay or the Board's denial of your application):

	X	Pre-application meeting with staff: Prior to submittal of this application, the applicant is strongly encouraged to discuss the proposed project and submittal material with Zoning staff. Incomplete applications could result in referral or denial by the Zoning Board of Appeals. Completed on December 19, 2017 with Matt tucker			
	x	Site plan, drawn to scale. A registered survey is recommended, but not required. Show the following on the site plan (Maximum size for all drawings is 11" x 17"): Lot lines Existing and proposed structures, with dimensions and setback distances to all property lines Approximate location of structures on neighboring properties adjacent to variance Major landscape elements, fencing, retaining walls or other relevant site features Scale (1" = 20' or 1' = 30' preferred) North arrow			
	х	Elevations from all relevant directions showing existing and proposed views, with notation showing the existing structure and proposed addition(s). (Maximum size for all drawings is 11" x 17") See Exhibit 2			
	X	Interior floor plan of existing and proposed structure, when relevant to the variance request and required by Zoning Staff (Most additions and expansions will require floor plans). (Maximum size for all drawings is $11'' \times 17''$) See Exhibit 3			
N/A		Front yard variance requests only. Show the building location (front setback) of adjacent properties on each side of the subject property to determine front setback average.			
N/A		Lakefront setback variance requests only. Provide a survey prepared by a registered land surveyor showing existing setbacks of buildings on adjacent lots, per MGO 28.138.			
N/A		Variance requests specifically involving slope, grade, or trees. Approximate location and amount of slope direction of drainage, location, species and size of trees.			
	х	CHECK HERE. I acknowledge any statements implied as fact require supporting evidence.			
	х	CHECK HERE. I have been given a copy of and have reviewed the standards that the Zoning Board of Appeals will use when reviewing applications for variances.			
	Own	er's Signature:			
		DECISION			
	The Board, in accordance with its findings of fact, hereby determines that the requested variance for (is) (is not) in compliance with all of the standards for a variance.				
	Furth	er findings of fact are stated in the minutes of this public hearing.			
	The 2	Zoning Board of Appeals: Approved Denied Conditionally Approved			
	-25				
	Zonii	Zoning Board of Appeals Chair:			
	Date				

Note to Board Members:

- Exhibits 1 through 3 include site plans, elevations, and floor plan as required by the application.
- Exhibits 4 through 8 include future project programming map and letters of support for this variance as described throughout the Standards for Variance below.

Standards for Variance

- 1. There are conditions unique to the property of the applicant that do not apply generally to other properties in the district.
 - a. Olbrich Botanical Gardens (OBG) is a very unique parcel within the City of Madison.
 - i. An expansive path system meanders through 16 acres of outdoor gardens.
 - ii. Main structures are condensed into one centralized campus and interconnected for the visitors' experience as well as staff efficiency and the transporting of delicate plants within the campus.
 - b. OBG is a single parcel that "fronts" on two different streets. Primary access is gained from Atwood Ave. either into the main entry parking lot or by turning onto Sugar Ave.
 - i. Sugar Ave is a dead end street that serves the following functions:
 - 1. Parking access to visitors of OBG, its employees and visitors of the adjacent Olbrich Park.
 - 2. Bike path access from Atwood Ave to the Capital City Bike Path to the north of the OBG parcel.
 - 3. Vehicular access to the property to the north including the former Garver Cottage and Storage Buildings.
 - ii. Sugar Ave also has a series of curves from Atwood Ave. to the RR right of way which creates a meandering line for setbacks.
 - iii. Although it is important to maintain Sugar Ave as a public street, the City of Madison has no plans at this time to improve or modify the existing right of way of Sugar Ave.
 - c. The following exhibits are provided as support for this item:
 - i. Exhibit 1, Site Maps (3 pages with annotations)
 - ii. Exhibit 5, Letter from City Engineer
- 2. The variance is not contrary to the spirit, purpose, and intent of the regulations in the zoning district and is not contrary to the public interest.
 - a. The main street setback (Atwood Ave.) is compliant with the existing ordinance
 - b. The new greenhouse is compliant with the Sugar Ave. setback southwesterly to the foundation.
 - c. The variance does not affect public interest as all structural elements including emergency exiting are inside the limits of the security fence.
- 3. For an area (setbacks, etc) variance, compliance with the strict letter of the ordinance would unreasonably prevent use of the property for a permitted purpose or would render compliance with the ordinance unnecessarily burdensome.
 - a. Relocating the new greenhouse to meet the full intent of the ordinance would be detrimental to the programming of future expansion projects.

- i. Current proposed area would largely become unusable back of house space.
- ii. The new greenhouse was moved southwesterly from the current location along a somewhat parallel line to accommodate a future westerly visitor entrance and a future Plant Show Pavilion.
- iii. A significant portion of the westerly gardens would be lost if the new greenhouse and future Plant Show Pavilion needed to be relocated to the north.
 - 1. This would include losing a significant portion of the event garden which is largely used as a rental space for outdoor weddings and other outdoor events which creates revenue for OBG's operation.
- b. The greenhouse is used as production space for plants that support the Conservatory as well as plants being propagated for plant shows, garden use, and other event support. Relocating the greenhouse farther away from its proposed location would severely impact the health/welfare of the tropical and orchid collections when transferring them to/from the Conservatory.
- c. The existing layout is the most efficient for staff, functionality and solar angles. A long slender greenhouse adds more structure and is problematic for heating/cooling, watering and solar angles. The hardening off area outside would then need to be on the north side of the greenhouse which would be detrimental to preparing plants for the gardens due to lack of sun.
- d. Reducing the size of the greenhouse is not a practical and would have impacts on the Conservatory plant collections as well as OBG revenue.
 - i. The Tropical and Orchid collections have outgrown their current space already
 - 1. A smaller structure would require sacrificing part of the collection
 - 2. The collections consist of backup plants and seasonal plants used in the Conservatory.
 - ii. Reducing the production house would significantly impact the home grown production of annuals used in the gardens as well as annuals grown for the spring plant sale.
- e. The following exhibits are provided as support for this item:
 - i. Exhibit 2, Greenhouse Building Elevations
 - ii. Exhibit 3, Greenhouse Floor Plan
 - iii. Exhibit 4, OBG Programming Map
 - iv. Exhibit 6, Letter from Olbrich Botanical Gardens Director
 - v. Exhibit 7, Letter from Olbrich Botanical Society President
 - vi. Exhibit 8, Letter from City Parks Division Superintendent

4. The alleged difficulty or hardship is created by the terms of the ordinance rather than the person who has a present interest in the property.

- a. The current setback ordinances did not exist until 2013 the existing greenhouse was constructed in 1992 and the security fence was installed sometime after that.
- b. The new greenhouse is similar in size and location to the existing greenhouse. We are replacing the existing greenhouse structure only because it has reached its useful life and is of a European design whose parts/components are no longer available. The new greenhouse dimensions and related technologies were not compatible with the existing foundation.

- 5. The proposed variance shall not create substantial detriment to the adjacent property.
 - a. There are no parcels immediately adjacent to the OBG parcel. Adjacencies are as follows (also shown on Exhibit 1):
 - i. Railroad right of way and bike path right of way to the north
 - ii. Starkweather Creek to the east
 - iii. Atwood Ave. to the south
 - iv. Sugar Ave. to the west
- 6. The proposed variance shall be compatible with the character of the immediate neighborhood.
 - a. The immediate neighborhood consists of Olbrich Botanical Gardens, Olbrich Park, Olbrich Park Softball fields, the old Garver Feed Mill, and a few houses which are along the perimeter of Olbrich Park and well beyond OBG.
 - b. The residential parcels of the immediate neighborhood have different setback requirements and cannot be compared with the unique requirements and functionality of OBG.

Exhibit 1 Olbrich Garden Greenhouse GARVER DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OLBRICH PARK OLBRICH BOTANICAL GARDENS OLBRICH PARK SOFTBAL FIELDS RIGHT OF WAY / BLOCK LINE PROPERTY LINE EXHIBIT 1 - SHEET 1 OLBRICH BOTANICAL GARDENS REQUEST FOR SETBACK VARIANCE OLBRICH PARK SITE LOCATION MAP SCALE 1" = 120'



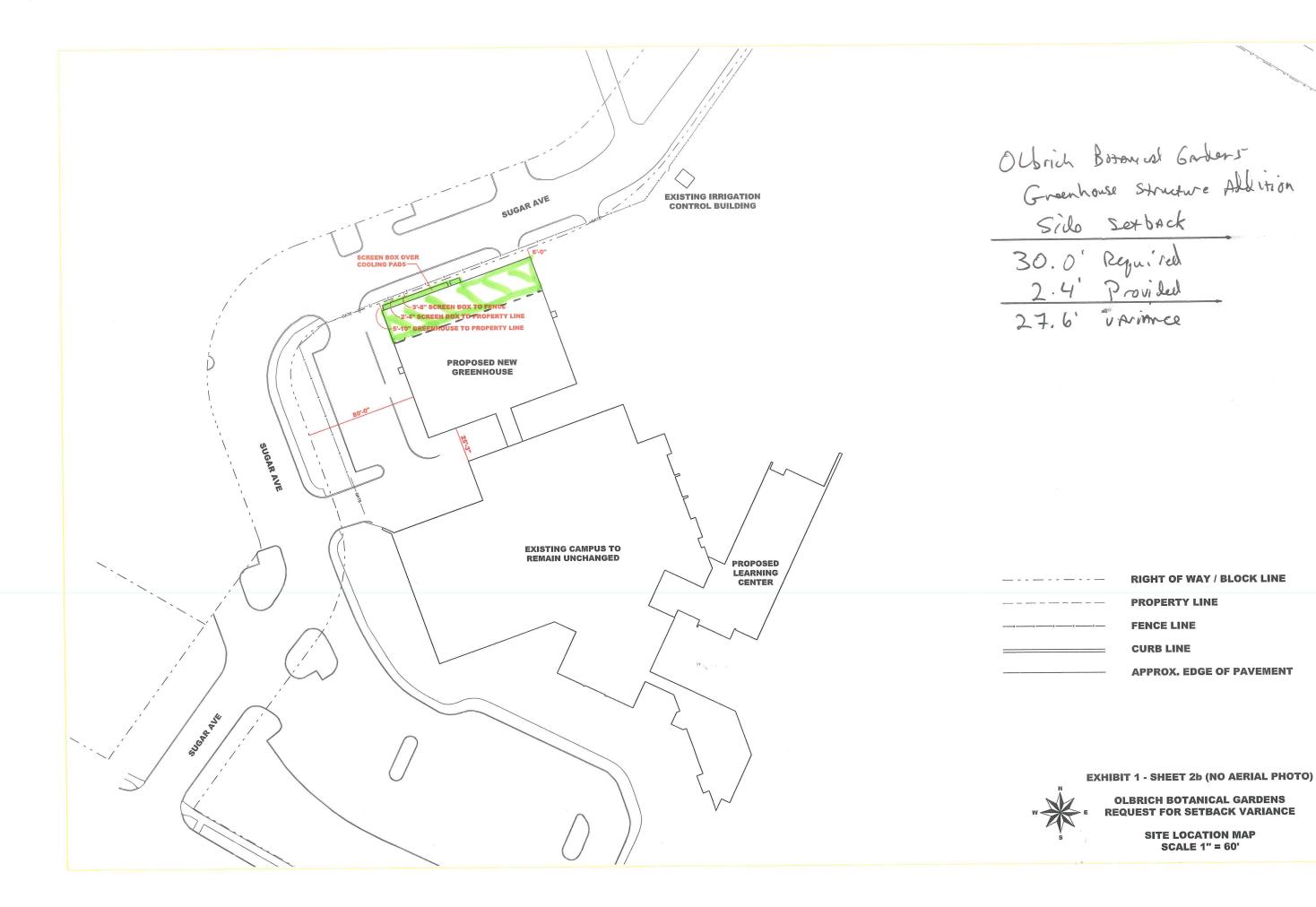
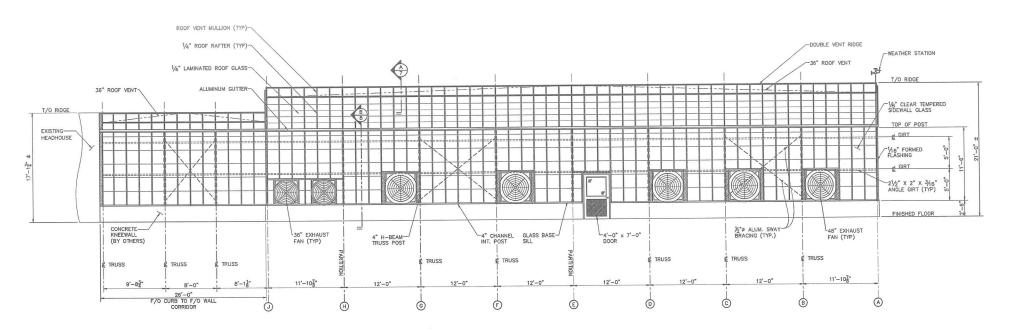
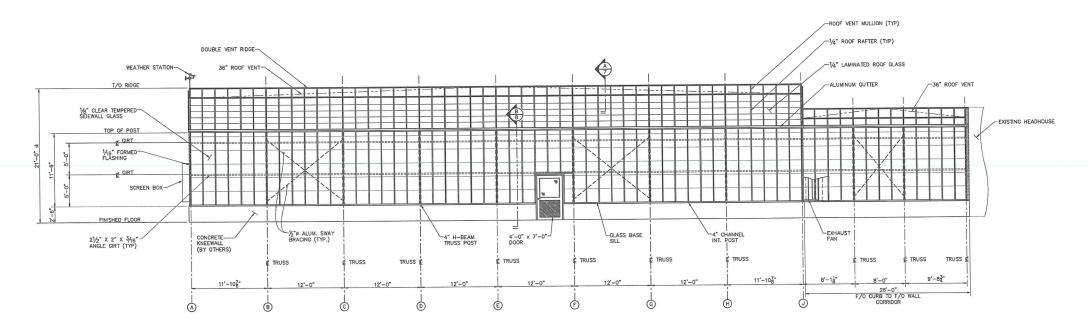


Exhibit 2 Olbrich Garden Greenhouse



NORTH SIDEWALL ELEVATION 1



SOUTH SIDEWALL ELEVATION (2)

SCALE: 3/6"=1'-0"

ENGINEERING NOTE: ENGINEER'S SEAL APPLIES TO DESIGN OF STRUCTURAL COMPONENTS ONLY

MSR 710 South 2nd Street, 8th Fico-Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401–2287

Vierbicher Associates, Inc.

999 Fourier Drive, Sulte 201 Madison, WI 53717

Ken Saiki Design, Inc.

608,251,3600 tol

IMEG Corp.

1800 Deming Way, Suite 200 Middleton, WI 53562

608.223.9600 tell

MEP Associates, LLC

860 Blue Gentian Road, Suite 175 Eagan, MN 55121

Summit Fire Consulting

575 Minnehaha Ave West St. Paul, MN 55103

651,251,1880 tel

Rough Brothers, Inc.

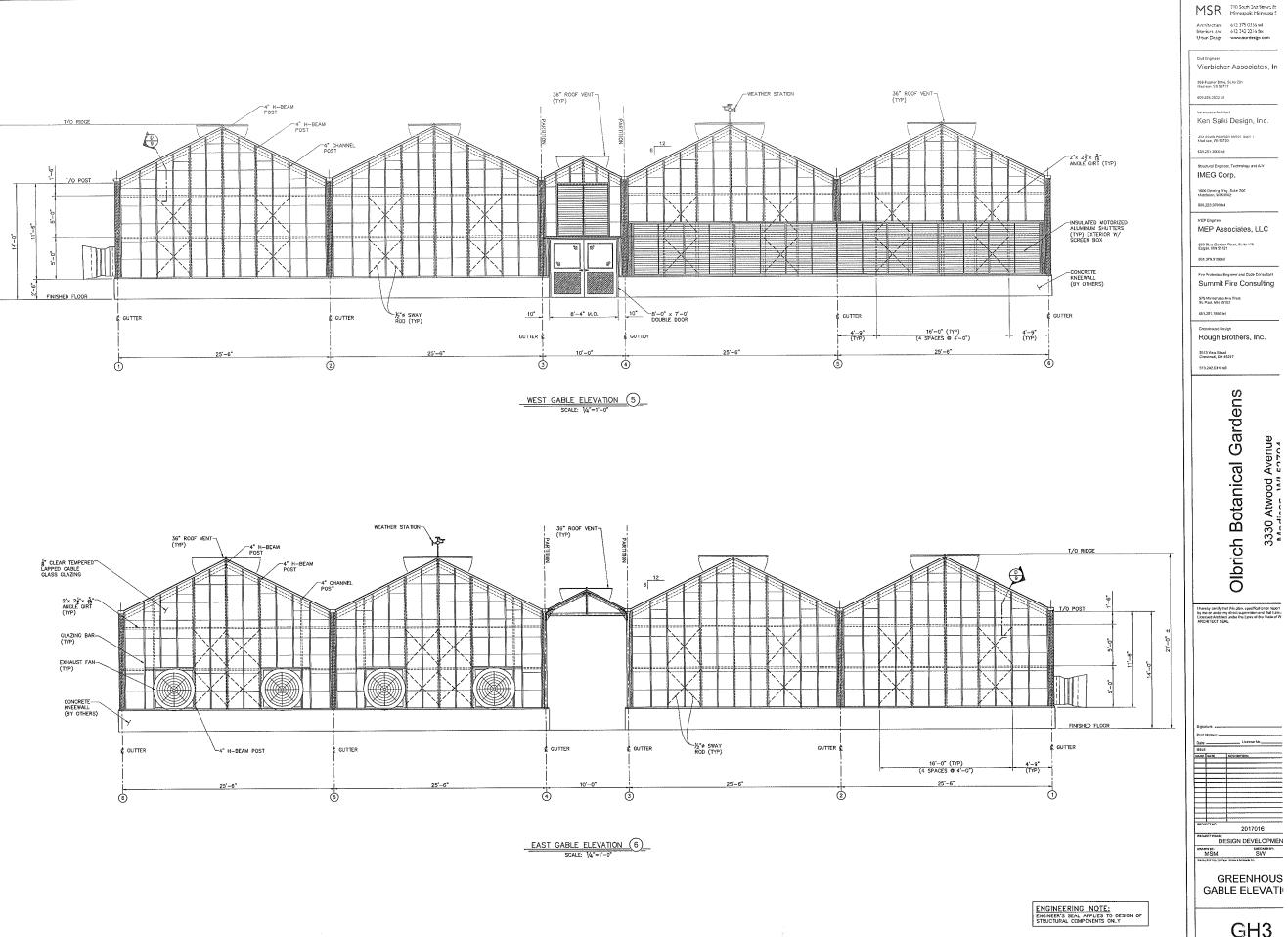
5513 Vine Street Cincinnati, OH 45217

Olbrich Botanical Gardens 3330 Atwood Avenue Madison, WI 53704

DESIGN DEVELOPMENT SW CHECKED BY

> **GREENHOUSE** SIDEWALL **ELEVATIONS**

> > GH2



GH3

GREENHOUS

Olbrich Botanical Gardens

3330 Atwood Avenue

Civil Engineer
Vierbicher Associates, In 999 Fousier Drive, Scillo 201 Mad-son, Vil 53717

609,826,0532 lak

Ken Saiki Design, Inc.

303 South Postson Street, Suite I Madison, Wt 53783

Structural Engineer, Technology and A/V IMEG Corp.

1800 Deming Way, Subs 200 Middleton, WI 53562

608,223,9700 t4

MEP Associates, LLC

880 Blue Gentish Road, Suita 175 Eagan, MN 55121

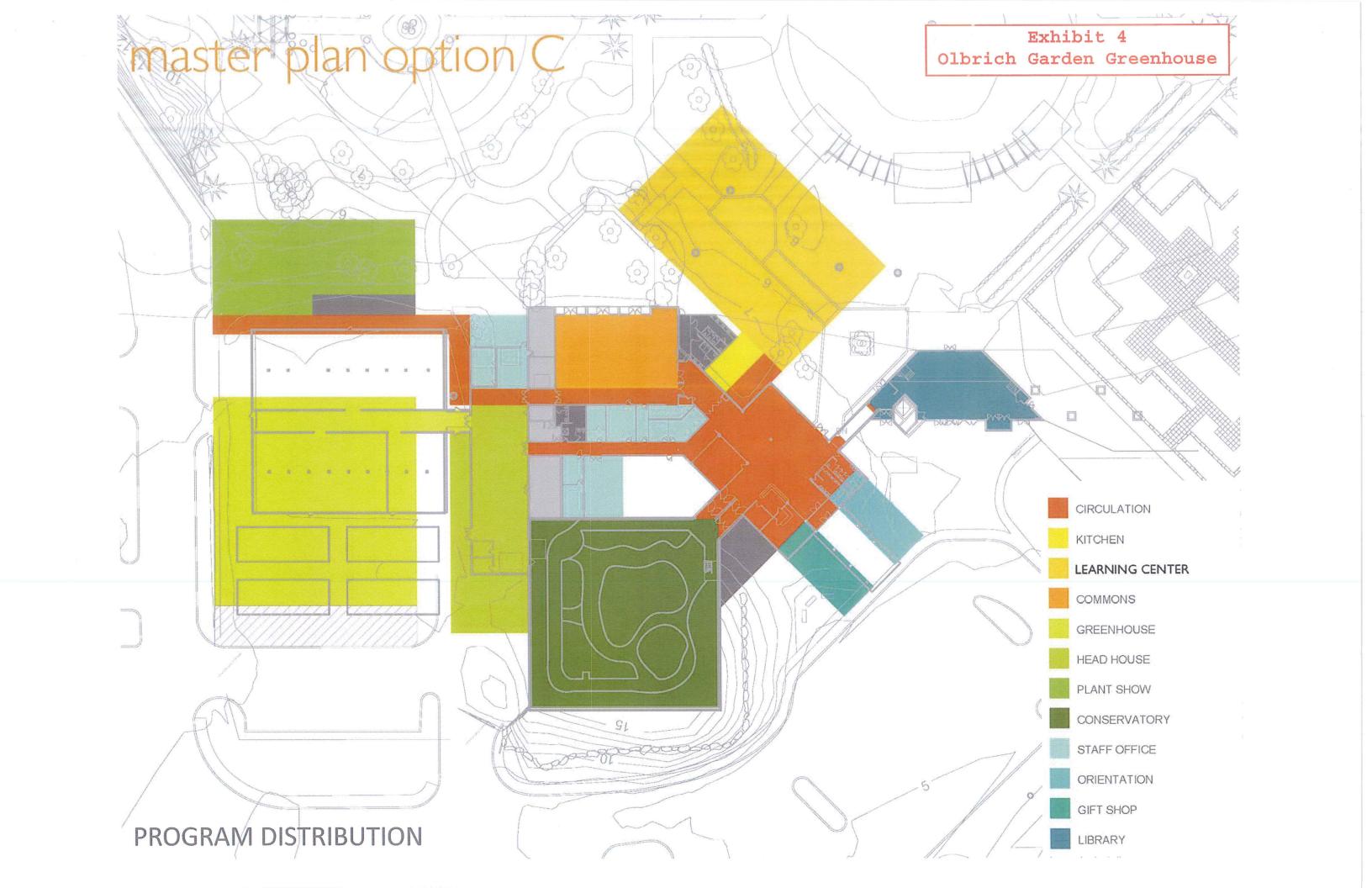
651.379.9120 tol

Fre Protection Engineer and Code Consultant Summit Fire Consulting

\$75 Mirnghaha Ave West St. Paul, MN 55103

Greenhouse Design Rough Brothers, Inc.

5513 Vina Street Cincinnali, DH 45217





Department of Public Works

Engineering Division

Robert F. Phillips, P.E., City Engineer

City-County Building, Room 115
210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard
Madison, Wisconsin 53703
Phone: (608) 266-4751
Fax: (608) 264-9275
engineering@cityofmadison.com
www.cityofmadison.com/engineering

January 16, 2018

RE: Request for setback variance to Olbrich Botanical Garden Greenhouse

Dear Members of the Zoning Board of Appeals,

I have reviewed the Standards for Variance application being submitted for the Sugar Avenue setback variance as it relates to the Greenhouse placement for the Olbrich Expansion Project. I have also discussed the application with the Project Manager, Randy Wiesner, who is a member of my staff.

Through the design process, the architects at MSR Design, staff of Olbrich Botanical Gardens, and other members of the design team looked at all options for placement of the new production greenhouse. The location shown in Exhibit 1 continues to optimize:

- the use of planned space without encroaching on the existing exterior gardens
- provide adequate space comparable to the existing greenhouse
- staff efficiency by locating it adjacent and connected to the Headhouse and Conservatory
- the protection of the tropical plant collections by locating it adjacent and connected to the Headhouse and Conservatory

It is important for the City of Madison to maintain Sugar Ave. as a public street but at this time there is no plan to improve or modify the existing Sugar Ave. right of way.

As the City Engineer I fully support this request for setback variance.

Sincerely,

Robert F. Phillips, P.E.

City Engineer

RFP:rsw

Cc: Randy Wiesner, City Engineering

Eric Knepp, Parks Division



City of Madison Zoning Board of Appeals City County Building, 210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard Madison, WI 53703

Dear Members of the Zoning Board of Appeals,

I write on behalf of the staff and volunteers of Olbrich Botanical Gardens in support of the zoning variance that will allow for the construction of a new production greenhouse adjacent to Sugar Avenue. The staff of Olbrich Botanical Gardens are blended – both City of Madison and Olbrich Botanical Society staff work to make Madison's public garden the jewel that is – highly regarded by public garden professionals, tourists from around the world as well as residents of the seven county region.

The production greenhouse supports almost every aspect of the visitor experience here at the Olbrich Gardens.

- It is used to grow annuals for the outdoor gardens, and provides shelter in the winter for tropical plants used in the Thai Garden.
- The production greenhouse holds a valuable orchid collection that has been 'growing' since the original greenhouse opened in 1991. That collection preserves the germplasm of wild-collected orchids from the tropical Americas. The plants, when in bloom, are displayed in the Bolz Conservatory or in the visitor lobby.
- The production greenhouse also houses a tropical plant collection that supports the Bolz Conservatory. When a plant needs to be removed from display because it has become too large, or it has outlived its usefulness, a selection of alternate plants is readily available in the production greenhouse. This allows staff to have a place to grow on unique tropical plants that would not be easily available to purchase and that ultimately will enhance the visitor and educational experience in the Bolz Conservatory.
- The production greenhouse is used to grow plants for the Holiday Flower Show and the Spring Flower Show. These unique displays provide experiences for visitors that are much beloved. In December 2017 more than 17,000 individuals, mostly in family groups, visited the Holiday Express: Flower and Model Train Show.
- Siting a greenhouse should be done with considerations of the sun angles and whether the greenhouse is in the shadow of another structure or future structure. MSR and Randy Wiesner have done a good job of locating this new project, removing some of the issues that exist for the current greenhouse, such as shading from the adjacent building and moving the production house to the sunnier side.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

Roberta Sladky, Director Olbrich Botanical Gardens

Eric Knepp, Madison Parks Superintendent Randy Wiesner, Architect – City of Madison Engineering Department



cc:



William F. White

VICE PRESIDENT Julie Rupert

SECRETARY R. Richard Wagner

City of Madison

Zoning Board of Appeals

TREASURER Mary Phillips City County Building, 210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard

Madison, WI 53703

PAST PRESIDENT Kevin Hess

DIRECTORS Alnisa Allgood Renee Boyce Philip Bradbury Julie Herfel Dan Lauffer Susan Derse Phillips Timothy W. Sherry Michelle Taschek

Ex Officio Directors David Ahrens Betty Chewning Eric Knepp Laurel Neverdahl Marsha Rummel Roberta Sladky

Advisors to the Board Fred Anderson Dennis P. Birke Jack Bolz Jt Covelli Jennifer Curliss

Sandy Dolister Elizabeth Ogren Erickson Edith Lawrence-Hilliard

Jeff Levy Janet Loewi Dale F. Mathwich Dan Matson Jerry Minnich Tricia Perkins Emanuel Scarbrough

Paul Williams RECYCLED FSC® C028479

Barbara L. Tensfeldt

Dear Members of the Zoning Board of Appeals,

I am the President of Olbrich Botanical Society Board of Directors and am writing in support of the zoning variance for the new Production Greenhouse on behalf of the Olbrich Botanical Society Board.

Olbrich Botanical Society values its partnership with the City of Madison and our organization has been fundraising to raise \$5 million to match the City of Madison's Capital budget amount of \$5 million. I'm happy to report that our organization has nearly reached its goal.

The Production Greenhouse is an important component of the Garden's operation throughout every segment of the operation. An improved greenhouse facility is important for the future of Olbrich Gardens which continues to 'grow' every year. Just over 300,000 individuals visited in 2016 and that number has increased to 325,530 in 2017. As a top-rated attraction in Madison on Trip Advisor, we expect attendance to continue to grow in the future. In addition to visitors, Olbrich Botanical Society is supported by more than 6,000 member households, one of the largest membership organizations in Dane County.

Please support our zoning variance.

William F. White

Sincerely

President, Olbrich Botanical Society Board

Eric Knepp, Madison Parks Superintendent CC:

Randy Wiesner, Architect - City of Madison Engineering Department



Madison Parks Division

210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., Room 104 Madison, WI 53703 608-266-4711 • cityofmadison.com/parks



January 18, 2018

Dear Members of the Zoning Board of Appeals,

Olbrich Botanical Gardens are a valued city asset with over 300,000 visitors annually to the nationally recognized grounds. The gardens continue to set the standard for public engagement and botanical innovation. To continue this level of service to the greater community, an expansion project that includes a new education wing and the replacement of the aging production greenhouse is being proposed.

The education wing is an addition to the existing main visitor building that will provide much-needed space for Olbrich's educational programming. Greater outreach to area youth and adults is an on-going goal for the gardens and the new addition will facilitate this work. The proposed location for the addition takes into account the existing building and garden circulation patterns and the potential impact on the exterior garden spaces.

Replacing the existing greenhouse is critical to the future success of the gardens as it serves as the primary plant development and storage facility. The current greenhouse is reaching the end of its service life and utilizes older, inefficient lighting and watering systems. The new greenhouse will be more space efficient and utilize the latest technology in lighting and water use. To ensure the new greenhouse meets energy conservation goals, the building also needs to be positioned for optimum sun exposure to reduce its reliance on artificial light.

After a thorough review of potential addition and greenhouse configurations, the proposed plan best optimizes garden operations while maximizing sun exposure to the new greenhouse. It also requires a variance to the setback along Sugar Avenue. Locating the greenhouse east of the existing Conservatory building and within the typical 30 ft. right-of-way setback positions the greenhouse out of the shadow cast by the Conservatory while maintaining an efficient relationship with the headhouse and visitor center. It also preserves sufficient space for the future plant exhibition hall. Overall, the proposed greenhouse location offers the best long-term solution for the continued development of the gardens

The City of Madison Parks Division supports the requested zoning variance for the proposed Olbrich Botanical Garden expansion.

Sincerely,

Eric Knepp

Parks Superintendent