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To: [PLLCApplications](#)
Subject: Item #3 - 59708 - MNA rejection of 817-821 Williamson Street proposal
Date: Sunday, May 31, 2020 8:52:38 PM

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Dear Landmarks Commission,

I am a member of the Marquette Neighborhood Association (MNA) Preservation & Development (P&D) Committee. I am writing to expand on the letter that was sent to you from the MNA Board on Brandon Cook's proposal for 817-821 Williamson Street.

On 5/12/20 P&D voted to recommend to the Board that the Board not support Cook's proposal for 817. The vote was unanimous, 8 to 0. (P&D did not discuss the demolition of the existing building as its age falls far outside the period of historic significance.) The committee members who voted against 817 sent a group letter to the MNA board to explain the reasons for rejecting the proposal. This letter discussed reasons related to both Landmarks and Plan Commission issues.

On the Landmarks related issues, the committee expressed that the proposed new building was not compatible with historic resources on five of the six criteria.

1. The project is too large. The gross volume is far in excess of neighboring properties and would dominate the block face.
2. The height along the sidewalk is far in excess of historic properties.
3. The proportion of solids/voids in the street facade is not visually compatible in terms of the entry door presentation and the grouping of windows. (P&D was working from the March plans of the project and subsequent window realignment and front balcony removals could affect this point.)
4. The roof design is not compatible, as all other historic resources have peaked roofs (except for one small corner property on the north side of Williamson).
5. The rhythm of building masses/spaces is not visually compatible with historic resources. The building is about two times as wide (street frontage) as the larger historic resources. The 2 foot setback of the western 9 feet and the 8 foot setback of the eastern 10 feet do not create a sense of space.

The MNA Board voted on 5/18/20 to affirm P&D's decision to not support Brandon Cook's proposed building for 817-821 Williamson Street by a vote of 5 to 3, with one abstention.

Thank you,
Steve Ohlson

