

**From:** Eskrich, Sara

**Sent:** Sunday, May 6, 2018 9:58:57 AM

**To:** Stouder, Heather; Obeng, Kwasi; Rummel, Marsha; Tucker, Matthew

**Subject:** Plan Commission Agenda Item 4

INTENDED AS ONE-WAY COMMUNICATION - DO NOT REPLY ALL

Members of the Plan Commission:

I urge you to support the Zoning Text Amendment, Legistar File 51065, as drafted.

We have expert staff in the City of Madison, whom we employ for their professional skills and analysis capabilities. The process for minor alterations to approved development processes is an appropriate way for the Planning Division Director and the Alder of the District to collaborate on approval of minor alterations to approved development projects. A minor alteration is generally a technical change, not requiring overly onerous processes for approval. However, by engaging the Alder, the Planning Division Director is able to gauge the neighborhood impacts to ensure the change is indeed minor.

Alders are democratically elected representatives of their districts. We operate as a republic in city government, and Alders have the responsibility to engage residents, as they can be held accountable for their representativeness through the democratic process. Neighborhood Associations can be valuable collaborators on neighborhood notification and feedback processes, but they are not democratically elected representatives in our local government.

Should a conflict arise between the Planning Director and the Alder of the district regarding a minor alteration, it seems appropriate to hold a public process, through the Plan Commission to make the final decision. This mirrors the Planned Development Process. Our transparency standards for the Plan Commission make these meetings open to all and provide an opportunity for greater engagement in the few controversial minor alteration requests.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Sara

---

Sara Eskrich

**DISTRICT 13 ALDER**  
CITY OF MADISON  
(608) 669-6979  
[district13@cityofmadison.com](mailto:district13@cityofmadison.com)