

Heiser-Ertel, Lauren

Subject: FW: Input for Landmarks Commission 2/12 consideration of proposed land division at 1908 Arlington Place

From: Roberta Gassman <roberta.gassman@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, February 12, 2024 4:53 PM

To: Fruhling, William <WFruhling@cityofmadison.com>

Cc: Lester Pines <lpines@pinesbach.com>; Vidaver, Regina <district5@cityofmadison.com>; Bidar-Sielaff, Shiva <shivabidar@tds.net>

Subject: Input for Landmarks Commission 2/12 consideration of proposed land division at 1908 Arlington Place

Some people who received this message don't often get email from roberta.gassman@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Landmarks Commission Members:

Thank you for your work in considering the proposed land division request by the LLC which recently purchased the house at 1908 Arlington Place in University Heights.

My husband, Attorney Lester Pines, who lives with me at 1915 Arlington Place, has already written you two times on behalf of both of us in opposition to the land division proposal and he will testify at tonight's meeting on behalf of both of us on content matters related to the land division request before you.

I write here not to address related content issues, but rather to address two process points related to the matter:

1. **Unfortunately, the mailed notice regarding the matter and public hearing came out not long ago in the midst of the busy holiday and school break season, with many impacted neighbors and interested others out of town with family, and, in fact, out of the country, as some still are, making writing in or zooming in from remote locations without internet service difficult. This important historic preservation matter has significance not only for neighbors, but for many others beyond and should not be considered within a rushed timeline.**

2. In spite of the challenges noted above, numerous written submissions opposed to the land division have been sent to you already:

-at least 7 communications opposed to the land division had already come in as of earlier today, representing 2 people each (two of these senders wrote 2 times with follow-up information) = written expressions of opposition to the proposal representing 14 individuals

-at least 7 communications opposed to the land division had already come in as of earlier today from 7 individuals

-Therefore, the above reflects written statements of opposition submitted by earlier today from at least 21 individuals including those who are lawyers, architects, appraisal experts, historic preservation leaders and more from the neighborhood and beyond.

Only two individuals had written in supporting the proposed land division as of earlier today.

I hope you will take this information into account as you consider ANY possible votes or actions on this matter today.

Many thanks for your public service and consideration.

With much appreciation, Roberta Gassman

--

Roberta Gassman

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Heiser-Ertel, Lauren

Subject: FW: correction to Old Spring Tavern name (not Spring Hill)

From: Jeff Chandler <heyjeffchandler@yahoo.com>

Sent: Monday, February 12, 2024 5:02 PM

To: Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; Fruhling, William <WFruhling@cityofmadison.com>; Vidaver, Regina <district5@cityofmadison.com>

Cc: Jeff Chandler <heyjeffchandler@yahoo.com>

Subject: correction to Old Spring Tavern name (not Spring Hill)

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Hello Landmarks Commission Members and City of Madison Officeholders;

Please make certain that a correction is entered into the record regarding my 'concerned citizen commentary' when I incorrectly made reference to Old Spring Tavern, when referencing its land division by David Gordon, when I called it 'Spring Hill Tavern'. I'd like to correct this for the record.

Thank-you very much, Jeff Chandler, A.S.A.

From: [Samantha Crownover](#)
To: [PLLCApplications](#)
Subject: Arlington Place feedback
Date: Monday, February 12, 2024 6:48:03 PM

Dear Heather and Commission Members,

I was one of the members of the Regent Neighborhood who was on the Landmarks Commission Zoom tonight. Regardless of the outcome of the Arlington Place decision, I was very sorry to hear that very few of the Commission members addressed the frustrations of the vast majority of those present, those who were in opposition of the lot division. The written submissions from both sides of the issue were well researched and quite eloquent. I couldn't help but trip over the questions at the top of your agenda:

Consider: Who benefits? Who is burdened? Who does not have a voice at the table? How can policymakers mitigate unintended consequences?

One commission member asked for a photograph of the property in question. There was none to be had. Few of the members likely visited the site. We're all busy. I understand there are written laws, ordinances, and guidelines that you're adhering to. But, why bother with the human element at all, in the form of public comment, when so few of the comments were addressed? People build neighborhoods and cities, not just words on pages. Again, I understand the outcome would not have been different, but I urge you and your commission members to address the real concerns of the citizens who make up this neighborhood who have a day-to-day, year-to-year concerns and physical and emotional experiences with this place in particular, and other places that come before you, in general. At least just a little. I could tell some commission members almost wanted to. I have sat through many public meetings in 30 years in Madison. Some commissions are better than others in addressing the public in this regard. I know it's stressful for everyone. However, I believe we can all do better and be more compassionate. I wanted to share my feelings about the overall tone of the issue at tonight's meeting. Thank you for listening to my feedback.

Respectfully,

Sam

Samantha Crownover
2702 Kendall Ave.
Madison, WI 53705