



PREPARED FOR THE URBAN DESIGN COMMISSION

**Project Address:** 825 West Badger Road

**Application Type:** Public Building & Development in UDD 1, Additions & Renovations to Fire Station No. 6  
Initial/Final Approval is Requested

**Legistar File ID #** [66577](#)

**Prepared By:** Kevin Firchow, Acting UDC Secretary

## Background Information

**Applicant | Contact:** City of Madison Fire Department | Amy Scanlon, City of Madison Engineering Division

**Project Description:** The applicant is seeking initial/final approval for additions and renovations to Fire Station No. 6. Modifications include system upgrades, improvements to interior spaces and additional space in the apparatus bay. Landscaping improvements and enlargement of the parking area will accommodate the larger company as well as members of the public utilizing the community room.

### Project Schedule:

- The UDC received an informational presentation on August 11, 2021.
- The Plan Commission is scheduled to review related aspects of this proposal on December 13, 2021.

### Approval Standards:

The UDC is an **approving body** on this request. The site is located in Urban Design District 1 (“UDD 1”), which requires that the Urban Design Commission review the proposed project using the design standards and guidelines for that district in [MGO Section 33.24\(8\)](#). The UDC is also an approving body related to the design of proposed public buildings. Per [MGO Section 33.24\(4\)\(d\)](#), the Urban Design Commission shall approve plans for all buildings proposed to be built or expanded in the City by the State of Wisconsin, the University of Wisconsin, the City of Madison, Dane County, the Federal Government.

## Summary of Design Considerations and Recommendations

Staff recommends that the Urban Design Commission review, make findings, and base their decision on the standards for Public Buildings and Urban Design District No. 1 (“UDD 1”).

### Summary of Design Considerations

As part of the UDC’s review, staff requests that the UDC address the following:

- **Building Materials.** Staff notes that the “Building Design” requirements of UDD 1 state that, “Metal shall not be used as an exterior material for building, except as an integral part of a design of exceptional merit.” In order to approve the request, staff recommends that the UDC provide a specific finding related to this consideration.
- **Parking Lot Landscaping.** As noted during the informational review, this section of the ordinance includes a design guideline (not standard) that parking lots are divided into areas of no more than seven (7) stalls. This guideline is more restrictive and predates the current zoning code standard that requires planting islands every 12 stalls. As proposed, there are rows of eight (8) and 10 stalls. Staff doesn’t

object to this design considering the more contemporary standards in the zoning code, but note this for the consideration of the UDC.

Finally, as a reference, staff refers the Commission to their comments from the 8/11/21 informational presentation:

- The Badger Road façade is clearly making a uniform overhead door height switch. The south elevation you're not proposing to do much with. Is the south elevation not also a fairly visible part of the building?
- Wondering about the bump out addition form of the brick, looked like the roof was pitched, is it gone or still pitched?
- I liked the pitch, it helped balance the other side of the building. But the detailing of the roof edge would want to be mimicked as well. It looks a little foreign now, wonder if the brick is worth it as it doesn't match any of the form of the original brick. Maybe that becomes a non-brick element and continues that more modern look. Or do it in brick and do the black form.
- The brick can help make this look more cohesive and less like a 2021 metal panel addition tacked onto a 1980s post-modern fire house. There are opportunities with the brick to tie it all together, this can be a modern interpretation of that. I encourage you to try to develop that a bit more, maybe not abandon the brick but look at some options with color and banding.
- I see the big flat roof, I'll make a plug for it as a potential green roof, looks like a nice canvas for something like that, as well as to help with the stormwater.
- The Birch trees, I suggest you think about some substantial long-living species like Swamp White Oak or Kentucky Coffee along that Badger Road frontage.
- I like the project, look forward to seeing it again.
- Be sure the signage is OK with the sign ordinance, it's very iconic and looks good. The Madison Fire Department has a standard shield on each station, incorporate that into the design as well when the project comes for final approval.
- Metal panel: permitted as an accent material? UDD No. 1 needs a finding that it's part of an exemplary design.
- I think we would discourage the metal to come down to the ground.