

Heiser-Ertel, Lauren

Subject: FW: Proposed alterations at Breese Stevens Field

From: Jason Tish <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Monday, March 11, 2019 3:06 PM

To: Bailey, Heather <HBailey@cityofmadison.com>; Fruhling, William <WFruhling@cityofmadison.com>; Rummel, Marsha <district6@cityofmadison.com>; Zellers, Ledell <district2@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Proposed alterations at Breese Stevens Field

Ms. Bailey and Landmarks Commission-

I concur with your evaluation that the proposed addition of temporary enclosed ten-link structures at Breese Stevens Field would be "out of character" with the open-air nature of the facility. I encourage you and the Landmarks Commissioners to deny a CoA for the project as proposed.

Looking at the renderings available on Legistar, I have two concerns about the proposal:

1. The roofs of the temporary shelter structures would rise above the historic stone walls of the facility, and be clearly visible from E. Washington Ave. The effect would be a significant change in the feeling of the venue from the view of E. Washington Ave. The sense from the street or the sidewalk would change from *"There's something exciting happening just on the other side of this wall."* to *"Looks like a complicated process to get from here to the inside of this place. and it looks exclusive."* The length of the roofs along the E. Washington Ave wall would give the facility a distinct covered/sheltered feeling from street where most people see the facility. This effect would make Breese Stevens read like a sheltered venue from the street, and change the nature of the historic outdoor venue. Breese Stevens Field was indeed designed as a distinctly outdoor stadium. The addition of the stone walls in the 1930s emphasizes the outdoor nature.
2. There is another structure shown in the renderings at the base of the original bleacher seating at the western end of the field, but the current submittal doesn't address it. It looks permanent, and it looks like a concession stand. This may have been previously approved, or I may be missing something in the current submittal, but this structure is also severely detrimental to the historic character of the stadium. It would dramatically change the experience of spectators who sit in the bleacher seating above and behind it. Rather than having a direct view of the play field, as was the design intent of the original structure, spectators in those seats would have a direct view of the roof the new structure. Their view of the play field would become background rather than foreground.

In a nutshell, my concern is that the city is allowing, incrementally, the historic, beautiful, outdoor Breese Stevens Field to be significantly altered in order to allow use patterns that it was not designed to accommodate.

--

- Jason Tish