

**From:** Beth Swedeen <bethswedeen@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Thursday, May 21, 2026 1:21 PM

**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Park Commission  
<pacommission@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** Proposed demolition of Odana Golf Club House

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Dear Alders and Park Commissioners:

I am writing today to ask you not to approve the current plans for demolishing the Odana golf course clubhouse as is planned by the city. I have lived almost 35 years in the Midvale Heights Neighbourhood two blocks from the clubhouse. I used to vote there and walk or ride my bike by it several times each week in every season. Our neighborhood was originally built in the mid 1950s as a Parade of Homes. The houses, most of which were originally three bedrooms and one bathroom and marketed to growing families at affordable costs, have many mid-century features: lannon stone fireplaces, all wood interior walls, pink or aqua tile bathrooms. We love our house and many people have moved into the neighborhood because of their love of mid-century design.

While I understand that the clubhouse is 70 years old and in desperate need of repair, I strongly oppose the current proposal, which would not replace the current structure with anything resembling the mid-century original design. We have seen many other neighborhoods lose historic landmarks that were cornerstone features of their neighborhoods and hate to see that happening in Midvale Heights. Part of the distinct charm and personality of Madison is its unique neighborhoods that represent architectural features of many different eras. The renewed interest in mid-century design is relatively young, but such an important cultural milestone: that magic time when America's middle class was at its peak and large families with a single breadwinner could afford to own their own homes. Our neighborhood had the added bonus of an affordable public golf course with tennis courts and a playground for the kids. The clubhouse anchored that distinct attraction and represented a modern, affordable neighborhood with many amenities.

i've attached a couple pictures I took with the natural sunlight coming through the windows of the clubhouse last fall to illustrate just how special this building is. I ask that you reject the request to tear down the neighborhood gem if there is no plan to rebuild in a similar architectural style. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Beth Swedeen

645 Odell St., Madison

