



City of Madison

City of Madison
Madison, WI 53703
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Meeting Minutes - Draft LANDMARKS COMMISSION

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

Monday, February 9, 2026

5:00 PM

Virtual Meeting

Call to Order/Roll Call

Present: 7 - John W. Duncan; Jacob Morrison; Molly S. Harris; Maurice D. Taylor; Edna Ely-Ledesma; Richard B. Arnesen and Katherine N. Kaliszewski

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Ely-Ledesma, seconded by Duncan, to Approve the January 12, 2026 Minutes. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

Public Comment

1. [60576](#) Landmarks Commission Public Comment Period

John Rolling, registering neither in support nor in opposition and wishing to speak

John Rolling said they were preparing a landmark nomination for Master Hall at 415 W Gilman Street. They requested that the Landmarks Commission amend their 1/12 motion regarding the historic value of this property to request that the Plan Commission defer their review of the demolition until May 11 to allow Rolling time to complete the nomination.

A motion for reconsideration was made by Arnesen, seconded by Ely-Ledesma, to amend the previous recommendation to the Plan Commission regarding the historic value of 415 W Gilman Street to include a request that the Plan Commission defer consideration of the demolition for 60 days to allow time for a landmark nomination to be received and reviewed by the Landmarks Commission. The motion failed by the following vote:

Ayes: 3 - Richard Arnesen, Edna Ely-Ledesma, and Molly Harris

Noes: 4 - John Duncan, Katie Kaliszewski, Jacob Morrison, and Maurice Taylor

Disclosures and Recusals

For item 6, Kaliszewski disclosed that a public registrant is her former college professor with whom she now has a personal relationship. For items 5 & 6, Arnesen disclosed that his children went to the Montessori school represented by some public registrants. For item 4, Harris and Ely-Ledesma disclosed that they work for the applicant, UW-Madison.

New Business

2. [91793](#) Removing "human burial designation" from Orton Park (District 6)

Bailey explained that the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is initiating the process for removing the human burial designation for Orton Park. They have reviewed documentation that all burials were systematically removed in 1877 when the cemetery became a park, and there have been no subsequent inadvertent discoveries of human remains. Bailey said she agreed with SHPO's analysis and believed

that all human remains were removed from this location. Kaliszewski added that this is not something that SHPO does regularly, and they don't move forward without a lot of evidence, so we can be confident that there are no human remains there. The commission had no additional comments to provide to SHPO.

No action was taken.

3. [62133](#)

Amendment to Landmarks Commission Policy Manual

Bailey highlighted the proposed updates to the policy manual.

A motion was made by Duncan, seconded by Morrison, to Approve the proposed updates to the policy manual. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

Demolition Historic Value Review

4. [91329](#)

206 Bernard Court - Consideration of a demolition permit to demolish a commercial building (District 8)

Scott Utter, registering in support and available to answer questions

Aaron Williams, registering neither in support nor in opposition and not wishing to speak

A motion was made by Morrison, seconded by Arnesen, to recommend a finding of (c) no known historic value. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

A motion was made by Morrison, seconded by Arnesen, to Approve. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

5. [91456](#)

5555 Odana Road - Consideration of a demolition permit to demolish a commercial building (District 19)

Jim Lottridge, registering in opposition and available to answer questions

Laura Kvalheim, registering in opposition and available to answer questions

A motion was made by Morrison, seconded by Duncan, to recommend a finding of (c) no known historic value. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

A motion was made by Morrison, seconded by Duncan, to Approve. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

6. [91459](#)

5534 Medical Circle - Consideration of a demolition permit to demolish a commercial building (District 19)

Anna Andrzejewski, registering neither in support nor in opposition and wishing to speak

Jim Lottridge, registering in opposition and available to answer questions

Laura Kvalheim, registering in opposition and available to answer questions

Diana Weng, registering in opposition and not wishing to speak

Alison Eng, registering in opposition and not wishing to speak

Margaret Porco, registering in opposition and not wishing to speak

A motion was made by Ely-Ledesma, seconded by Arnesen, to recommend a finding of (a) for historic value as the work/product of an architect of note, Marshall Erdman, and because the medical building would be contributing to a potential Historic District for Medical Circle. The loss of one of the buildings that currently comprise a potential district would negatively impact the likelihood of creating that Historic District in the future. The motion passed by a roll call vote.

A motion was made by Ely-Ledesma, seconded by Arnesen, to Refer to the PLAN COMMISSION. The motion passed by the following vote:

Ayes: 4 - Molly S. Harris; Edna Ely-Ledesma; Richard B. Arnesen and Katherine N. Kaliszewski

Noes: 3 - John W. Duncan; Jacob Morrison and Maurice D. Taylor

7. [91464](#) 2030 Pennsylvania Avenue - Consideration of a demolition permit to demolish a commercial building (District 12)
- Joey Wisniewski, registering in support and wishing to speak*
- A motion was made by Arnesen, seconded by Morrison, to recommend a finding of (c) no known historic value. The motion passed by voice vote/other.
- A motion was made by Arnesen, seconded by Morrison, to Approve. The motion passed by voice vote/other.**

Adjournment

A motion was made by Morrison, seconded by Arnesen, to Adjourn at 6:03 pm. The motion passed by voice vote/other.