

March 11, 2019

Dear Landmarks Commission:

I hope this letter finds you all doing well. Thank you for all your help in creating a wonderful atmosphere in downtown Madison.

As many of you know, Downtown Madison, Inc. is member-based organization focused on creating the best quality of life in downtown Madison for everyone. As such we are very excited by the events happening at Breese Stevens Field, be it the new Forward Madison Football Club, the Bodega's or the return of East High School athletics. The City of Madison Parks Division and their partners, Big Top Baseball, should be commended for creating wonderful usages out of a historic community gem downtown.

Today we write in support of Big Top Baseball's request for a Certificate of Appropriateness. Their application, as presented this evening, considers the historic significance of Breese Stevens while still trying to create a family friendly and inclusive environment. Hosting Forward Madison matches is the exact type of events downtown Madison needs to help foster an environment where everyone feels welcome. By building 'permanent' structures off East Washington Avenue using materials and colors consistent with the original structure and easily removable within a day, Big Top is both being sensitive to the history of the building and creating an exciting atmosphere in downtown Madison. We believe the changes to their proposal help create more appropriate structures within Breese Stevens.

Preservation through purpose is the best way to love our historic facilities. Big Top and the City of Madison are doing everything they can to create a new, and vibrant, purpose for Breese.

Thank you for your time and I hope you all have a wonderful week.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jason Ilstrup". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jason" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Ilstrup".

Jason Ilstrup
President
Downtown Madison, Inc.