



Agenda Item #: 13
Project Title: 801 S Whitney Way - Consideration of a demolition permit to demolish a well house and reservoir (District 11)
Legistar File ID #: 90161
Prepared By: Heather Bailey, Preservation Planner
Members: Present: Richard Arnesen, Ald. John Duncan, Molly Harris, Katie Kaliszewski, Jacob Morrison, and Maurice Taylor
Excused: Edna Ely-Ledesma

Summary

John Rolling, registering neither in support nor in opposition and wishing to speak
Isaac Steinmeyer, registering in support and available to answer questions
Pete Holmgren, registering in support and available to answer questions

John Rolling said that this was one of 11 wells built during the 1920s-50s that followed design cues from the 1917 central pumping station. He said that the attention paid to service facilities speaks to the pride in our civic institutions that Madison policymakers had at that time. He thought that the Water Utility’s design for the replacement of Well 12 was respectful of the historic design. He noted that we have already lost two historic wells, Well 3 and Well 4, so this proposal reduces the inventory of older designs to eight total; if we can’t retain the physical buildings, we should make it possible for future generations to know they existed. He suggested the Landmarks Commission recommend that the Plan Commission condition the demolition approval on creating and preserving a documentary record of Well 12.

Bailey said she had asked the Water Utility project team if it was possible to reuse the structure. They explored it and determined it was technically not feasible. She thought the design for the new wellhouse spoke to the overall historic design of the existing building. She added that John Rolling’s recommendation for requesting documentation of the well was reasonable.

Action

A motion was made by Morrison, seconded by Arnesen, to recommend a finding of (b) as this property speaks to the vernacular context of Madison and the evolution of the Prairie-style design for municipal water service structures. They recommend that the Plan Commission request documentation of existing conditions to meet historic survey standards. The motion passed by voice vote/other.