

City of Madison, Wisconsin

REPORT OF: URBAN DESIGN COMMISSION

PRESENTED: April 4, 2012

TITLE: 3900 East Washington Avenue – Public Building, Madison Water Utility Well No. 15, Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) Removal. 17th Ald. Dist. (25786)

REFERRED:

REREFERRED:

REPORTED BACK:

AUTHOR: Alan J. Martin, Secretary

ADOPTED:

POF:

DATED: April 4, 2012

ID NUMBER:

Members present were: Richard Wagner, Richard Slayton, Todd Barnett, Marsha Rummel, Dawn O’Kroley and Henry Lufler.

SUMMARY:

At its meeting of April 4, 2012, the Urban Design Commission **RECEIVED AN INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION** for a Madison Water Utility Well located at 3900 East Washington Avenue. Appearing on behalf of the project were Mark Oleinik, Strand Associates; and Doug Hursh, Potter Lawson, both representing the Madison Water Utility. The site is located behind a strip mall with park along two sides and commercial along the other two sides. A bike path parallels the site running along the north side. They are proposing a 1,500 square foot addition on the northeast side of the site. The new enclosure will utilize brick that closely matches the existing brick. The roof structure could be painted to be tied with the material palette. Two vents will be located approximately 3-feet from the roofline. Comments and questions were as follows:

- The form of it speaks to what it is and deals with the context very nicely. The volume not being symmetrical how it hits the ground gives it more interest. Nicely done, clean and it approaches the context and isn’t too fussy. My only suggestion is since it’s a Water Utility building next to a bike path, put in a water fountain.
- Are the doors going to open up on the bike path side? Is there sidewalk or pavement?
 - We’re thinking we might extend that sidewalk over just past these doors.
- Why paint the precast?
 - If you look at the existing building the white was just a little too bright for us. There’s white doors, white pipes, white gutters, we wanted to make that “go away” a bit more by darkening things up a bit. We’re trying to push it back rather than have it pop out since it’s not a destination.
- I think rather than make it look like the lane to grandma’s cottage, you could make a statement with boulders and that would invite people off the bike path to get a drink of water and sit on a boulder. Things that can be done texturally.
- It should be no-mow fescue.

- This is a well that's got problems. We need to improve the well and it seems like an educational opportunity.
- What about edible landscaping? The Water Utility was the most responsive to having that, especially along a bike path.
- There are lots of things you could plant that are edible for people as well as wildlife.

ACTION:

Since this was an **INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION** no formal action was taken by the Commission.

URBAN DESIGN COMMISSION PROJECT RATING FOR: 3900 East Washington Avenue

	Site Plan	Architecture	Landscape Plan	Site Amenities, Lighting, Etc.	Signs	Circulation (Pedestrian, Vehicular)	Urban Context	Overall Rating
Member Ratings								

General Comments:

- Edible landscaping would be cool near bike path.