



May 28, 2024

To: City of Madison Urban Design Commission

Re: Commission Meeting on May 29, 2024  
Agenda Item 6: 134, 140, 148, 150 S Blair Street/506, 508, 510, 514, 516, 518, 522 E  
Wilson Street, Legistar 79707

To the Members of the Urban Design Commission,

The Madison Trust for Historic Preservation would like to provide the Commission with its comments regarding the proposed redevelopment of the area bounded by East Wilson Street and South Blair Street near the current Essen Haus building.

The Madison Trust wholeheartedly supports projects that meet the City's goals for economic development and much needed new housing while also preserving those aspects of the physical City that make it special. Developing the large surface parking lot in this area as this proposal does is certainly a win for the community. We appreciate the work that has gone into the current plan, including the preservation of two early twentieth century facades and the Hotel Ruby Marie, the most historically significant structure on the block. After some 20 years of failed proposals, this proposal is an improvement, and we appreciate that the new buildings are designed so that their scale and appearance are compatible with the buildings that were there in the past.

Overall, the project is sensitive to preserving the best of the past and providing new housing in a way that's compatible with the look and feel of our historic neighborhoods.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and we look forward to working with the Commission and City staff on this and other important projects.

Sincerely,

*Richard Chandler*

Richard Chandler  
President  
Madison Trust for Historic Preservation