

6 January 2010

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Bill Fruhling- Department of Planning and Community and Economic Development
Dan Stephans – Chair, Madison Landmarks Commission

In advance of the January 10 meeting of the Landmarks Commission, please see comments below on agenda items from the *Madison Trust for Historic Preservation* and *National Trust for Historic Preservation*.

Item 1 - 209 North Prospect Avenue

The submission appears to propose a contemporary infill design in a historic district significant for its high-style early-twentieth century residences. The Landmarks ordinance allows the Commission to approve such designs in historic districts, and there is precedent for such projects. The Madison Trust does not oppose the addition of contemporary designs in historic districts as long as the design is unapologetically contemporary, does not attempt to incorporate elements that emulate historic styles, and adheres to requirements for height, scale, and massing.

Item 2 – 315 N. Carroll St.

The proposal for a new community-oriented facility on this block of N. Carroll St. would be a positive addition to the neighborhood, and a much more efficient and productive use of a parcel currently used primarily for surface parking. Obviously, the major obstacle to this project is a structure of documented historic significance. Since the residential context of the Steensland House on the 300 block of Carroll St. has been almost entirely removed, and since the house is a contributing element of the Mansion Hill Historic District. The Madison Trust would support the relocation of the house to an alternative site within the Mansion Hill Historic District. We cannot however, support the demolition of the house. It is good condition, and could readily be adapted to a new use. It is listed individually on the National Register and as a local Landmark. Demolition of such a building would be a tangible loss of a cultural and architectural resource.

Item 3 -

We have no problems with the current draft version of the Landmarks Ordinance revisions.

Item 4 –

No comments.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Tish
Executive Director

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