

AGENDA # 4

City of Madison, Wisconsin

REPORT OF: URBAN DESIGN COMMISSION **PRESENTED:** April 6, 2016

TITLE: 704-734 University Avenue- Advisory **REFERRED:**
Recommendation for UW-Madison School **REREFERRED:**
of Music Performance Building. 8th Ald. **REPORTED BACK:**
Dist. (35424)

AUTHOR: Alan J. Martin, Secretary **ADOPTED:** **POF:**

DATED: April 6, 2016 **ID NUMBER:**

Members present were: Richard Wagner, Chair; Lois Braun-Oddo, Cliff Goodhart, Richard Slayton, Dawn O’Kroley, Sheri Carter, John Harrington and Michael Rosenblum.

SUMMARY:

At its meeting of April 6, 2016, the Urban Design Commission **GRANTED FINAL APPROVAL** of the UW-Madison School of Music Performance Building located at 704-734 University Avenue. Appearing on behalf of the project were Gary Brown, Marc Bastian and Peter Heaslett, all representing the UW-Madison. Bastian reviewed the project, changes made and building materials.

Comments and questions from the Commission were as follows:

- What is the difference, or similarity to the stone on the Elvehjem building and Chazen Museum? How do the values relate?
 - On the Chazen is what’s called a vetter stone, or mini limestone. This is a Wisconsin stone, which is a bit more gray, a bit less yellow.
- How many textures are there?
 - This is an image of the two sides. There’s a beveled corner and then corrugated face of the façade, horizontal.
- The overall approach to the building that we talked about last time, what is the approach and the anticipation of the arrival at that building when you arrive from the Lake Street/State Street side, because it is the “back of house” side?
 - Special paving within the property will introduce the building entry to patrons. Additionally for users of the building there is a short circuit entry at this position, for people coming from Humanities, Chazen or by the alley. Part of the segregation we talked about last time is this is open to the public, but there are security issues with people around this portion of the building accessing the back of house areas where performers set-up and study, so we tried to segregate that. It’s really this line within the floor plan that defines public space versus private space and the entry points are set up accordingly.
- This is a big improvement. What were the questions raised at the South Campus discussion?

- They wanted to see more articulation on that east façade, there needs to be some activity and movement along that side. There's not a lot of windows to see in, they're higher up, we've added some landscaping there and there's some articulation in the building façade where the stone is to add some more life to it. There was a suggestion to add some artwork on the exterior of the building, and we've resisted that, we're going to have probably some very interesting artwork inside the building and that should take care of the artistic needs of this building from a visual standpoint. We think we've done a good job of adding some articulation and life to this side of the building.
- The building itself with its various textures is its own piece of art, which is why a rather cliché arborvitae troubles me, I think something better can be done there.
 - It's hidden behind Chazen on that south walk. You'll never see that view of the arborvitae.
- I'd almost rather see something that will become 2-3 feet wide, I know there's not a lot of room in there, but that will become somewhat of a major walkway through there for students.
 - I think most of the traffic will come out of the northwest corner and cut behind.
- But people walking down University and cutting through the mall, that space by the bookstore could be a route through there, just look at that, it would look nicer and enhance the building. Something out in the space that would be overhead rather than something down where people are standing. This is an opportunity for people to hang out and this just doesn't enhance the building or do anything for the space. If there wasn't such a vine-phobia I'd say vines up the side of that building would be great.
- I wouldn't go with the arborvitae.
 - The island gave us a bit more soil volume there.
- That reinforcement is almost more striking.
- Basically you're covering up the texture of the building, and it's never going to look as nice as the drawing.
- The building is so solid, why couldn't those openings be increased to lighten that up? To see people in there using the building.
- To my mind that's a musical staff, the design of those windows.
 - The windows were set up to look like musical notes. The neighborhood's biggest idea was to get an art piece out there.
- I'm just wondering why the scale of the windows couldn't be increased. Not the rhythm, not the proportions, just the scale.
 - This balances both what we're hearing from you and the client's needs.
 - This has also been presented to our Campus Plan Review Board and they've approved this concept. We'll be going back to Joint Campus next week and I assume they'll approve it as well.
- Is everyone aware how congested that sidewalk is going to be at certain times?
 - It's actually widened along University Avenue, we have a change in paving material right at the building by the entrance, but it is wider than it is today.

ACTION:

On a motion by Slayton, seconded by Harrington, the Urban Design Commission **GRANTED FINAL APPROVAL**. The motion was passed on a vote of (7-0).