

From: ctbauer tds.net [mailto:ctbauer@tds.net]
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2012 3:12 PM
To: Martin, Al
Subject: downtown demolition

To Members of the Urban Design Commission,

I am writing to express my strong objection to demolition of the two historically significant and easily utilized buildings at the corner of Fairchild and Mifflin Streets.

My objection arises principally from the absence of any compelling public problem to be solved, or public benefit to be gained, by replacing part of our current building stock with a private park-plaza, something in forty years of living and working in downtown Madison I have never heard before. I am aware of ZERO public desire for demolishing buildings to make more open spaces, much less to improve the views from other buildings. To me such a motivation is the height of serene arrogance (throwing your weight around, to speak plainly) and helps the public, and preserves the texture and the detail of downtown, not at all.

As an example of losing streetscape building faces, we need look no further than the much beleaguered Peace Park for an example of how it took almost fifty years to replace infill structures lost to fire (at least that was an accident), and even now the job is only half way complete, though it's the best we could get. Deliberately removing serviceable, not to speak of historic, buildings becomes, in my view the height of folly.

Further, Fairchild is a very busy street. Nothing about a private park dampens traffic, and I expect such a park will quickly become a nuisance location since it is close to another problem area where Mifflin Street abuts the Capitol Square.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Chuck Bauer

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