

----- Original Message -----

Subject:Comments on proposed Longfellow School renovation and addition

Date:Wed, 17 Apr 2013 11:48:28 -0500

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Not sure if you're taking public comments on informational proposals at tonight's UDC meeting or not...but if you are, here is mine:

In regard to the Longfellow School project and new building behind the school, I have reviewed the design as presented by Iconica to neighbors near the school. I have a couple of concerns about the design:

1. Colors chosen, as depicted in the elevation pictures we were shown, were particularly cold and gray, in contrast to just about everything around the proposed building except for perhaps the Meriter parking ramp. (This was a comment echoed by the Landmarks Commission when first presented there.)

2. The south end of the building, facing a number of neighboring homes, is not particularly attractive. In particular, the stairway clad in dark gray brick on the south end of the building strikes me as a feature that should appear on a military bunker, not an apartment building trying to coexist in an established neighborhood. Similar remarks apply to the cold gray color for blocks facing the parking structure facing west from the proposed building.

I understand the architects have made some modifications to their design since submission to UDC. Although they are quick to share such changes with city committees, they have not been nearly as quick in sharing such information with neighbors near the project--which I find disappointing.

John Perkins
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