

Rolfs, Daniel

From: Thomas Armbrecht [tjarmbrecht@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, November 26, 2011 9:22 AM
To: Rolfs, Daniel
Subject: Letter of Support for Waugh & Klebba's proposal for 704 E. Gorham

1205 Elizabeth St
Madison WI 53703-1713
26 November 2011

David Wallner
Chair, James Madison Park Surplus Committee
Department of Planning and Community and Economic Development
Room 312, 215 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Madison, WI 53701-2985

Dear Mr. Wallner and Members of the James Madison Park Surplus Committee,

I am writing this letter to voice my strong support for David Waugh and Bob Klebba's proposal to turn the Collins House back into a bed and breakfast. I have known Bob & David in several different capacities for almost ten years and am certain that they would do an excellent job stewarding the property and opening it to the community.

I am a regular attendee at Chef's Night Off, the gathering of friends and neighbors that occurs biweekly at Bob & David's. Even though this communal meal is always delicious, I go as much for the sense of community as I do for the food. Bob and David's ability to create and sustain a place for people to come together to break bread has become an important feature of our neighborhood; it allows us to maintain a sense of neighborly connection during the cold months when I rarely even see the people who live right next door!

David and Bob are successful business owners whose dedication and resourcefulness will serve them well while running a bed and breakfast. Their nursery in Mt. Horeb and stall at the farmer's market demonstrate their amazing ability to care for things and make them grow while dealing with the difficulties of running a small business. The students and foreign nationals whom they lodge in their home attest to their hospitality and flexibility. Of all the people I know, I can't think of anyone with more relevant experience or realistic expectations for running a B&B. I am quite certain that Bob & David would do an excellent job welcoming both travelers and community members into their home; they've already done so for the past ten years!

I am very happy to know that the City wants the properties in James Madison Park to have a public function and that it is looking for community leaders and not simply business people to make this happen. Bob and David are true leaders who have worked and will work hard for Madison. I hope that the Committee will see fit to bestow an even more active and important role upon them by awarding them the lease for the Collins House. Please let me know if you would like any more information about my very high opinion of both Bob & David and of their plan to assume the stewardship of the Collins House.

Yours truly,

Thomas J. D. Armbrecht
Associate Professor of French, UW-Madison