

Schenk-Atwood-Starkweather-Yahara Neighborhood Association

Monday, November 10, 2015

Madison Plan Commission Attn., Tim Parks 210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd Madison, WI 53703

Plan Commission Members,

I send this letter on behalf of the Schenk Atwood Starkweather Yahara (SASY) Neighborhood Association in support of Solstice House, the new program that SOAR Case Management is proposing to run in a residential home at 2649 Milwaukee St. The location puts it in the SASY neighborhood. This proposal has received very thorough consideration through a number of meetings with SASY and the larger neighborhood. The people at SOAR have done an excellent job in crafting a low-barrier social service program that we strongly feel will be an asset to the neighborhood. They have been forthright, cooperative and receptive in all of their interactions with neighborhood residents and stakeholders. This was reflected most recently in a public meeting on 10/22/15. In that meeting a number of immediate neighbors asked questions about concerns they had with this program. The SOAR staff demonstrated a solid management plan and program scope that put all resident concerns at ease. They have also demonstrated forethought in connecting with the Madison Police Department and other service providers to build a support network for Solstice House.

The SASY Council voted unanimously to support this project at the 10/8/15 meeting, but waited to send this letter to support to gauge broader public support and possible concerns by attending the public meeting. At this point we feel that we can extend our unequivocal support to this program. I urge the Plan Commission to approve SOAR Case Management's application to establish Solstice House at the Milwaukee St location.

Respectfully,

Brad Hinkfuss

Chair - SASY Neighborhood Association

Cc: Marsha Rummel, District 6 City Alder; SASY Neighborhood Association Council; Melissa Huggins; Kaylin Shampo; Leah Kornish