

City of Madison, Wisconsin

REPORT OF: URBAN DESIGN COMMISSION

PRESENTED: June 29, 2016

TITLE: 32 North Bassett Street – Alteration to a Previously Approved Project in the Downtown Core District. 4th Ald. Dist. (42737)

REFERRED:

REREFERRED:

REPORTED BACK:

AUTHOR: Alan J. Martin, Secretary

ADOPTED:

POF:

DATED: June 29, 2016

ID NUMBER:

Members present were: Richard Wagner, Chair; Cliff Goodhart, Michael Rosenblum, Lois Braun-Oddo, Tom DeChant, Sheri Carter and Richard Slayton.

SUMMARY:

At its meeting of June 29, 2016, the Urban Design Commission **GRANTED FINAL APPROVAL** of an alteration to a previously approved project located at 32 North Bassett Street. Appearing on behalf of the project was Jim Glueck, architect; and Bobby Peterson, representing ABC for Health. The top railing would be replaced with a traditional pyramid type cap on it and add a horizontal at 36-inches. A painted cedar sample was shared. The mural will remain.

Comments and questions from the Commission were as follows:

- This railing could be so much better. If you're going to put a railing on a place where your employees are going to come out and sit and have lunch, you can just do better than that painted cedar.
 - Our mission is to work in a community serving low-income families, we could spend a lot of money on the railing but we're trying to find that sweet spot between a space that's appropriate for our employees, a price point we can afford for a non-profit, or take money away from our mission. Putting in a lot of expensive materials would be nice but it's not necessarily appropriate to our non-profit mission. It's going to help our employees, improve the aesthetics of the building, it's going to harmonize with the neighborhood, this is an 1890s building, we're doing the best we can with the resources we have.
- Did you look into vinyl? I remember us talking about that, did you just look into it or are you just shaking your head?
 - I'm shaking my head. This Commission has hated vinyl since I started working and I think it's totally inappropriate on a historic brick building to use vinyl.
- Anything else you looked into? Because I don't remember you saying that you looked into various things.
 - If you buy a cheap metal railing, it looks cheap. If you buy a quality railing it costs a ton of money and it just doesn't reflect the building's architecture.

- I agree with Jim on this, an expensive metal railing on that would actually look out of place, cheap doesn't do anything for you. This is a reasonable choice given its context.

ACTION:

On a motion by DeChant, seconded by Braun-Oddo, the Urban Design Commission **GRANTED FINAL APPROVAL**. The motion was passed on a vote of (5-1) with Carter voting no.