

Heiser-Ertel, Lauren

Subject: FW: Window Restoration

From: Pam Barrett Rocks <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Friday, October 25, 2019 8:15 AM

To: Bailey, Heather <HBailey@cityofmadison.com>

Cc: Erica & Mark Gehrig <[REDACTED]>; Elizabeth Cwik <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Window Restoration

Hi Heather,

I'd like to introduce myself. I'm the Pam that Erica Gehrig mentioned in her email to you yesterday. I simply wanted to email you directly to express my support for the Landmarks Commission's proposed policy change to require a 3rd party window assessment prior to authorizing a certificate of appropriateness for the installation of replacement windows.

I know that you're aware that, once old growth wood sashes are removed, they can never be replaced with the quality of materials that is anywhere near "equivalent" because all replacement windows are made of new, softer woods (even sap woods) that are more prone to decay/rot. Also, replacement windows are not repairable. The saying among historic window preservationist is that replacement windows are named as such because, one must replace them within 10 years. In contrast, a properly restored historic window can last (with only minor maintenance) for another 75-100 years. With restoration costing less than a third of replacement (in most cases), restoration holds a considerable "return on investment" advantage to replacement.

I could go on and on about this topic but should probably keep it brief and focused on the proposed policy.

I would respectfully suggest that one aspect of your policy change be looked at a little closer. It states that the "assessment must come from a contractor who completes window repair." That could be a difficult hurdle given the dearth of contractors in the area that offer window restoration services. Might the commission consider broadening the definition to include agencies or persons with expertise in the area even if they don't perform the repairs? For instance, a preservationist architect or persons who have attended and completed training/workshops in the specialty of historic window restoration.

I'll stop there. I just wanted to put forth my two cents since I will be unable to attend the meeting this Monday.

Erica and I would love to meet with you. Another of our collaborators, Elizabeth Cwik, might also wish to be there. My launch date for the business is in May/June and I'm currently shopping my business plan to investors. I did stop by the permitting office a few weeks ago and the friendly folks there suggested I contact you. Is there a convenient time in late November/early December that we meet to discuss our plans and how we might best serve Madison's historic districts? Late afternoons work best for me.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to meeting you.

Pam Barrett