

City of Madison, Wisconsin

REPORT OF: URBAN DESIGN COMMISSION

PRESENTED: December 11, 2019

TITLE: 115 W. Doty Street – Public Building, New Addition and Renovation of the Existing Public Safety Building. 4th Ald. Dist. (57747)

REFERRED:

REREFERRED:

REPORTED BACK:

AUTHOR: Janine Glaeser, Secretary

ADOPTED:

POF:

DATED: December 11, 2019

ID NUMBER:

Members present were: Cliff Goodhart, Chair; Lois Braun-Oddo, Christian Harper, Jessica Klehr, Tom DeChant, Craig Weisensel, Rafeeq Asad, Syed Abbas and Shane Bernau.

SUMMARY:

At its meeting of December 11, 2019, the Urban Design Commission **RECEIVED AN INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION** for a new addition and renovation of the existing Public Safety Building located at 115 W. Doty Street. Registered and speaking in support were Doug Hursh and Jan Horsfall, both representing the Dane County Sheriff’s Office. Registered in support and available to answer questions was Eric Lawson, representing Dane County. Hursh provided the existing site context review with views and a review of the site plan/site access. First floor activation is shown with three entrance points with doors being added along Doty Street while adjusting the landscaping location to add steps. They are still working on what to do to make the pedestrian experience better and are looking at some murals on the interior to show through the glass. A tree will be added on Wilson Street showing how the building is setback to maintain the view corridor for traffic. Exterior patterning shows the interior uses and how the façade plays with those uses to control the views. There are vertical louvers over the recreation spaces. They want as much natural light as possible for the day rooms and multi-purpose rooms and will have 40% or less glazing on the project with some clear, some translucent, spandrel and vision glass. The jail cells are on the east and west façades. A review of different elevations and photos of materials were shared, including terra cotta/clay colored panels, horizontal bands and mezzanines. Not all floors are the same floor-to-floor height.

The Commission discussed the following:

- What is the alley between the new development and the courthouse?
 - It’s a ramp down access to underground parking and access to mechanical equipment, it’s not meant for pedestrians.
- The windows on the existing courthouse will be looking into the new building?
 - Yes, but what’s on the perimeter of the building is a chase with the cells backing up to the chase.
- On the gap between the courthouse and this building along Wilson, I wouldn’t want to see repeated what you have between the CCB and the courthouse on Doty Street, which is like a chain link fence to keep people from cutting through. It should be a design barrier vs. a chain link fence.

- I really like the façade but I'm struggling with the mass and its position on the streetscape. It's building right up to the property line with the second floor and up, and are you requesting any sort of condition or variance? You made a decision to not bring the first floor all the way down, why is this building all the way up to the property line but nothing else on the block is?
 - I believe it's allowed as far as zoning, and there are several buildings within blocks of this building where they are right up to the property line and come right down to the sidewalk. That first floor is set up about 14-feet and there's a potential for that to raise up a bit more as we look at the depth of the structure.
- I like it. My theory is that Madison will go from a group of beige buildings to a group of beige and terra cotta buildings. It's so top heavy with these little columns, like they're little pins almost. It needs a heavier base, please explore.
- I don't mind the mass sitting on the pins, except for is it just concrete? It feels like it wants to be a little more refined, special form work or a finish, or if it's just dark. Maybe it would go away if it was black. I like the rest of it.
 - You have to look at the street level too, as a pedestrian they feel very heavy already.
- I think there's a way to make it a little more refined.
- I appreciate the long views you did and different perspectives around this area since it's so high profile, especially coming in on John Nolen Drive. Otherwise same comments, I like the design but wonder when you come back if it would be worth seeing at night. How much light will be coming off the internal lighting and how that will look.
- I like the skinny legs.
- Could you address the staff comment about the Capitol Height Limit?
 - We are just below it. The elevator overrides will extend into the heights, which is allowed per the conditional use, but there is no equipment on that rooftop that will extend into that.

ACTION:

Since this was an **INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION** no formal action was taken by the Commission.