

Mattingly, Gabrielle

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2019 9:07 PM
To: Mattingly, Gabrielle
Subject: 3/21 historic sites commission meeting

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Hi - I will be out of town and unable to attend the 3/21 meeting, but am hoping you can pass along my concerns to the commission.

I'm sad to see that the house at School and Franklin has been allowed to fall into such disrepair that it is no longer salvageable. The plans for a replacement look nice, with one exception. The south facing portion of the house plan lacks the regular window placement that we see on typical historic homes, and looks more like the blank sides of modern McMansions. Is it possible to encourage a more appropriate window arrangement on that side? I'm also concerned that while it looks good on virtual paper, it might end up like the 'Standard Market' house that replaced the demolished house at Ellsworth and Van Buren. That's a fine looking house, but it looks like a hot-house flower in the middle of a field of wildflowers - pretty, but out of place. I have no idea of what can be done to prevent that, but am glad that the Sleigh and Franklin plans at least look somewhat appropriate, and will just cross my fingers that the details and finishing won't end up making it look out of place. I'm assuming that the massive amount of lot space that the building takes up, and the presumed issues with drainage, fall outside of the HSC jurisdiction.

I understand that not much can be done about North Central College and their plans for the Little Friends property. I am truly dismayed that they plan to demolish the historic Kroehler mansion, which is a significant contributor to the district, and has a true historic role in the community as the home of our former mayor and a leading figure in the history of Naperville (not to mention the juicy scandal!). The exterior is still in fine shape - and those bathrooms! I doubt there is another home in the area with even one bathroom that is so original early 20th century opulent, much less the multiple fantastically tiled baths in the home that are virtually untouched. And the fireplace, and the original furniture, and the beautiful tiled entryway floor - I know interiors are not typically the concern of the commission, but they are such a wonder. The Kroehler house is a bit rough after so many years as an institution, but it is truly historic, has great potential, and we aren't getting any more of homes from that era. It would be a stain on the 'Historic' district to let it be destroyed, so I'm speaking out early, even though I realize that is not the issue on the table at the moment - but it is coming.

I am concerned, as time passes and more and more historic homes are destroyed, that there may no longer be a point to retaining a historic district. Is the wider community actually in support of a historic district? Is there any point to maintaining the historic integrity of our house, or would we be better off selling out to have our home demolished and replaced by the same McMansions that are going up in the place of older homes outside the district, or by college dorms and classrooms? This is not just a rhetorical question - it is a question about investing in our home, our family's largest investment. Does it make sense to replace the boilers, repair the windows, stain the siding, etc., if it is all just going to come down? I love our home, and its history, and the district, I'm just not sure it will last much longer, and am questioning whether our commitment to it makes sense any longer.

Linda Johans [REDACTED]

March 21, 2019

City of Naperville
Transportation, Engineering and Development Business Group
400 S. Eagle Street
Naperville, IL 60540

Dear City of Naperville,

My name is Steve Schmieder and my wife, Mary, and I reside at [REDACTED], directly behind the property located at 26 N. Sleight Street. Due to previous commitment, we are unable to attend Thursday evening's meeting with the Naperville Preservation Commission. Therefore, we are submitting this letter to let you know that we strongly support the petition submitted by DJK Custom Homes for the following reasons:

- The home at 26 N. Sleight has not been maintained for more than 8 years and is an absolute health hazard. The home has been unoccupied for years and is filled with garbage and mold from years of neglect. It's simply disgusting. If you haven't been inside the home, I suggest you make a visit before deciding which direction to take with the property.
- Also, the garage door hangs precariously off its hinges and could collapse at any time. The fence surrounding the perimeter has deteriorated into broken pieces with exposed nails. For grandparents with 4 grandkids under the age of 3, this is an extremely dangerous hazard.
- Dead trees from an unkept yard have fallen twice on the power lines in the alley which the home backs up to. Just last week I had to call the City to have them remove a tree that was leaning precariously on the power lines.
- The house has become a home to a host of critters, everything from racoons to skunks. It has become unsafe at night to leave our home with our dog without worrying about possibly being sprayed by a skunk. Unfortunately, this has happened to our daughter's dog on a recent visit.
- There is no sidewalk on the Franklin side of the home which means often times we see people simply walking in the street – clearly a safety issue that can and should be prevented when a new home is built.
- From what we've learned from other individuals (builders, realtors, relatives, interested 3rd parties) who have inspected the property, this home is not only inhabitable, it's beyond repair.

For these reasons, my wife and I strongly urge you to consider the petition submitted by DJK Custom Homes asking for the house to be demolished and replaced with a new home that fits the integrity of the neighborhood. We believe the rendering of the home presented by DJK meets these needs.

Thank you for listening.

Best regards,

Steve and Mary Schmieder
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]