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*****DISCLAIMER*****

>>PUBLIC COMMENTER: MY NAME IS FRANK LEPO AND I LIVE AT 535 NORTH RIDGELAND AND MY DAY JOB IS DIRECTOR OF THE HISTORIC SOCIETY OF OAK PARK/RIVER FOREST AND I'VE BEEN A PART OF PRESERVATION ISSUES OF OAK PARK INCLUDING BEING ONE OF THE ORGANIZERS OF PRESERVATION OAK PARK AND ALSO A FORMER MEMBER OF THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION. SO I HAVE A VERY GREAT INTEREST IN THE PRESERVATION AND HISTORY OF THE COMMUNITY, OUR RICH HISTORY, I DO APPRECIATE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT AND COCHAIR LUECK, I APPRECIATE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE WHOLE PROCESS IN TERMS OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND I DON'T KNOW IF THAT IS SOMETHING TO BE BETTER DEFINED MOVING AHEAD IF THERE IS PUBLIC STATEMENTS ALLOWED EVERY MEETING WERE SORT OF WHEN YOUR DRAFT REPORT IS SUBMITTED.

I WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING THAT SO I WANT TO SORT OF ASK THAT TO THE GROUP, BUT I ALSO REALLY HEARTENED BY A LOT OF THE DISCUSSIONS TONIGHT BECAUSE I DON'T THINK IT IS IN EITHER/OR.

I THINK THE IDEA OF PRESERVING THE ARCHITECTURALLY AND SORT OF HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT VILLAGE HALL AS THE MAIN STRUCTURE, BUT TO MODERNIZE IT TO HAVE THE SYSTEMS, THE ACCESSIBILITY, BLOOD OF THE KEY THINGS THAT ARE BEING TALKED ABOUT AS MUCH NEEDED INVESTMENT IN THE EXISTING BUILDING, BUT I THINK THE OTHER THING I AM REALLY INTERESTED ABOUT TONIGHT WAS THIS DISCUSSION OF THE MOVING OF THE POLICE STATION AND THE RENOVATIONS ON THIS BUILDING POTENTIALLY, THAT WHAT IS THAT CONNECTION?

WHAT IS A WAY TO PERHAPS BRING A NEW COMMON ENTRANCE OR SOMETHING THAT WOULD ACTUALLY IMPROVE WHAT IS A GOOD ARCHITECTURAL BUILDING THAT HAS SOME STRUCTURALLY OR SOME MECHANICAL ISSUES AND SOME ACCESSIBILITY

ISSUES, FOR INSTANCE, BUT THAT THIS IS A KIND OF HEAVY 1970s BUILDING IN CONVERSATION WITH A 2020S BUILDING THAT COULD BE SORT OF A NICE BLEND OF HISTORICAL VALUES OF THE COMMUNITY AND ARCHITECTURAL VALUES, BUT ALSO ALL THE OTHER VALUES THAT YOU HAVE BEEN TALKING ABOUT TONIGHT.

SO AGAIN, AS YOU SAID STARTING OFF THE MEETING THERE IS ALWAYS GOING TO BE SOME COMPROMISES ALONG THE WAY, POTENTIALLY, BUT THINK THERE IS SOME GREAT OPPORTUNITIES TO IMPROVE WHAT WE SEE NOW AND BRING OUT AND PRESERVE SOME OF THE KEY FEATURES, BUT ALSO DO A LOT MORE TOWARD REESTABLISHING SORT OF THE ORIGINAL IDEA OF A CIVIC CENTER, WHICH IN THE ORIGINAL HARRY WEISS DRAWINGS THE SOUTH END OF THE PROPERTY DID SAY "FUTURE ADDITION".

THERE WAS THIS IDEA THAT IT WAS GOING TO CHANGE AND THINGS WOULD CHANGE WITH THE BUILDING, SO I APPRECIATE ALL OF YOUR WORK AND I APPRECIATE THE CHANCE TO SPEAK TONIGHT.

THANK YOU.

>>CHAIRWOMAN LUECK: THANK YOU.

AND IT IS MY ASSUMPTION WE WILL HAVE PUBLIC, EVERY MEETING?

>> THAT WAS MY UNDERSTANDING AS WELL, BUT I DON'T KNOW

[CROSSTALK]

THESE ARE ALL OMA MEETINGS, RIGHT?

>>CHAIRWOMAN LUECK: YES.

THERE YOU GO.

>> (SPEAKER AWAY FROM MIC).

>>PUBLIC COMMENTER: MY NAME ISN'T FRANK HEITZMAN, I AM AN ARCHITECT IN OAK PARK, 213 S. EUCLID.

AS YOU KNOW, OAK PARK VILLAGE HALL IS LISTED ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES SINCE JULY 2014.

WITH ONLY 39 YEARS OLD AT THE TIME OF LISTING.

THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, WHICH MONITORS THE - IS THE KEEPER OF THE REGISTER, FELT THAT OUR VILLAGE HALL IS SO IMPORTANT THAT THEY WAIVED THEIR USUAL 50 YEAR MINIMUM AGE CRITERIA.

I ENCOURAGE YOU TO READ MY NOMINATION DOCUMENT THAT IS INCLUDED IN THE LIST OF MATERIALS PROVIDED BY THE VILLAGE TO ASSIST YOU IN YOUR EFFORT.

THE NOMINATION CITED TWO REASONS FOR THE BUILDINGS IMPORTANCE.

FIRST VILLAGE HALL, THE VILLAGE HALL ILLUSTRATES THE DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERISTICS OF A TIME PERIOD AND METHOD OF CONSTRUCTION.

IT REPRESENTS THE WORK OF A MASTER, HARRY WEISS.

AND POSSESSES HIGH ARTISTIC VALUES.

SECONDLY, AND PROBABLY MORE IMPORTANT TO THE PARK SERVICE WAS THAT THE CONSTRUCTION OF VILLAGE HALL IN 1975 PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN OAK PARK'S

STRUGGLE TO BREAK THE DOWNWARD SPIRAL OF THE WHITE FLIGHT FROM RESEGREGATION AND LED OAK PARK TO BECOME A MODEL INTEGRATED COMMUNITY. WHERE CITIZENS OF DIVERSE ETHNIC BACKGROUNDS LIVE TOGETHER IN PEACE. OAK PARK RECEIVED NATIONAL ATTENTION FOR THE WAY IT INSPIRED AND SUSTAINED RACIAL INTEGRATION.

YOU PROBABLY ALL KNOW THIS ALREADY AND DEMONSTRATED TO OTHER COMMUNITIES HOW TO ACHIEVE THE DIVERSE MIXTURE OF WHITE AND BLACK RESIDENTS TO LIVE TOGETHER IN HARMONY.

WHEN CONSTRUCTING THE REMODELING OF A HISTORIC BUILDING, AS YOU ARE, ARCHITECTS RELY ON KNOWLEDGE OF THE CHARACTER DEFINING FEATURES. TO RETAIN HISTORIC INTEGRITY OF THE ORIGINAL DESIGN FOR THE CHARACTER DEFINING FEATURES IN THIS BUILDING INCLUDE ONE, THE OVERALL THREE-DIMENSIONAL MASSING.

TWO, THE OPEN VIEWS AND VISTAS OF INTERIOR SPACES WHERE CITIZENS CAN OBSERVE THE GOVERNMENT AT WORK.

THREE, THE ATRIUM COURTYARD ENCLOSED ON THREE SIDES AND OPEN TO THE SKY.

FOUR, THE USE OF CHICAGO COMMON BRICK WALLS IN BOTH THE EXTERIOR AND INTERIOR.

FIVE, THE USE OF RED TERRA-COTTA PAVERS BOTH IN THE COURTYARD, AS WELL AS THE FLOORS OF INTERIOR CIRCULATION SPACES.

SIX, STANDING SEAM METAL ROOFING.

SEVEN, THE EXPOSED HEAVY TIMBER STRUCTURE AS WE CAN SEE HERE IN THIS ROOM.

EIGHT, THE EIGHTH COUNCIL CHAMBER BLOCK RESTING ON CONCRETE PIERS ABOVE AN OPEN EXTERIOR SPACE AND I DON'T KNOW IF YOU KNOW THIS OR NOT, THAT WAS ORIGINALLY A REFLECTING POOL.

THERE ARE SOME WONDERFUL PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN JUST AFTER THE BUILDING WAS BUILT WHERE YOU CAN SEE THAT REFLECTING POOL IN ITS FULL GLORY.

SEPARATED FROM THE MAIN BUILDING WITH A CYLINDRICAL PASSAGE.

AT THE EXTERIOR WRAPPER LEADING UP TO THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS FROM THE COURTYARD THROUGH OPENINGS IN THE BRICK BUTTRESSES.

I WILL SKIP TO THE LAST PARAGRAPH HERE BECAUSE I HEAR THE BELL GOING OFF.

HARRY WEISS WAS A PIONEER IN THE PRESERVATION MOVEMENT IN CHICAGO. HE SAID THAT EVERY BUILDING SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO STAND, UNLESS THERE'S A COMPELLING REASON TO DO SOMETHING NEW AND THAT THE NEW DESIGN IS BETTER THAN THE OLD.

FINDING A WAY TO REUSE VILLAGE HALL TO SUSTAIN OAK PARK'S RECORD FOR FOSTERING AND PRESERVING IMPORTANT ARCHITECTURE AND EARN IT WORLDWIDE PRAISE FOR MAINTAINING AN IMPORTANT LANDMARK AS THIS BUILDING IS AND REAFFIRMING OUR FAITH IN THE GOVERNMENT OPENNESS THAT THE BUILDING REPRESENTS.

>>CHAIRWOMAN LUECK: THANK YOU.

>> THANKS, FRANK.

>>PUBLIC COMMENTER: GOOD EVENING, EVERYONE.
MY NAME IS KENDRA PARZAN.
I'M THE ADVOCACY MANAGER FOR LANDMARKS ILLINOIS.
THE STATE WIDE NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION.
I AM ALSO AN OAK PARK RESIDENT.
LANDMARKS ILLINOIS HELPS PEOPLE ACROSS THE STATE SAVE PLACES THAT ARE
IMPORTANT TO THEIR COMMUNITIES.
AND OAK PARK VILLAGE HALL IS DEFINITELY ONE OF THOSE PLACES.
IT IS THE WORK OF VISIONARY ARCHITECT HARRY WEISS WHOSE OPEN DESIGN
REFLECTS A TRANSPARENCY IN GOVERNMENT AND AT THE TIME IT WAS BUILT,
ITS LOCATION NEAR OAK PARK'S EASTERN BORDER WAS ALSO A VISION OF WHAT
OAK PARK COULD BE.
AN INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY WITH A GOVERNMENT READY TO INVEST IN ALL OAK
PARK HERS.
SO ENCOURAGE THIS COMMITTEE TO KEEP THOSE ORIGINAL DESIGN INTENT IN
MIND, AS YOU EVALUATE THE OPTIONS THAT WILL BE THE COMING BEFORE YOU
AND ASK WHETHER THE INTERVENTIONS THAT WE NEED NOW ENTRIES THAT SAME
PATH.
WE ARE ENCOURAGED THAT THE VILLAGE HAS CONVENEED THIS COMMITTEE TO
EXAMINE THE REUSE POSSIBILITIES FOR VILLAGE HALL.
MY ORGANIZATION SO FREQUENTLY ENCOUNTERS ARGUMENT THAT A HISTORIC
RESOURCE IS TO DETERIORATED OR TO ENERGY INEFFICIENT, OR TOO
INACCESSIBLE TO BE SAVED AND REUSED, BUT VERY, VERY RARELY IS THAT
ACTUALLY THE CASE IN THE PRESENCE OF SOME CREATIVITY AND CAREFUL
CONSIDERATION.
SO I OFFER THE FULL SUPPORT OF THE LANDMARKS ILLINOIS FOR THIS REUSE
VISION FOR VILLAGE HALL AND LOOK FORWARD TO ENGAGING WITH THIS
COMMITTEE AND I APPRECIATE THE OPPORTUNITY TO HEAR THE DISCUSSION THIS
EVENING.
THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU.

>>PUBLIC COMMENTER: HI.

MY NAME IS MARTY BERNSTEIN AND I LIVE ON GUNDERSON AVENUE.
WE HAVE BEEN IN OAK PARK FOR ABOUT 30 YEARS AND I WILL START WITH A
SUGGESTION MY WIFE ASKED ME TO GIVE SO I DO NOT FORGET IT AT THE END.
SHE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE SHOOTING RANGE BE RENTED OUT SO WE CAN GET
SOME REVENUE FROM THAT AND I AGREE WITH THAT.
BUT THE MAIN REASON I AM HERE IS BECAUSE I WAS VERY INVOLVED WITH THE
DISTRICT 200 SAGA FOR THE LAST EIGHT YEARS.
I WAS VERY UNSATISFIED AND UNHAPPY WITH THINGS I SAW HAPPENING OVER
THERE AND IT LEFT A REALLY BAD TASTE IN MY MOUTH.
WE ALSO KNOW THAT IT IS NOT THE ONLY GOVERNMENTAL BODY AND THERE HAS
BEEN OTHER THINGS, CAPITAL TYPE PROJECTS THAT I HAVE NOT BEEN
SATISFIED WITH THE WAY THINGS WENT DOWN.

SO I'M ASKING YOU TO KEEP THAT IN MIND AS YOU GO THROUGH THIS HUMONGOUS AMOUNT OF INFORMATION HAVE 2 TO COME UP WITH BEGINNING SOLUTIONS AND ATTEMPT TO POLISH THEM UP AND COME UP WITH WHAT I THINK WILL BE PRETTY SPECTACULAR FOR THE TIME YOU'RE DONE.

I KNOW SOME OF YOU PEOPLE.

I KNOW OF SOME OF YOU AND I THINK THE BRAINPOWER IS HERE TO MAKE IT HAPPEN.

BUT PLEASE, PLEASE KEEP IN MIND, DISTRICT 200 PROJECT ONE WAS \$32 MILLION, THE OVERRUN 33%.

PROJECT TWO, WHICH THEY JUST APPROVED IN APRIL COMES IN BEGINNING AT \$129 MILLION.

ADD YOUR 33%, YOU CAN FIGURE OUT WHAT THAT IS, IT WILL BE OVER \$200 MILLION AND WHEN I HEARD THAT THE VILLAGE WAS TALKING ABOUT DEMOLISHING AND REBUILDING THIS BUILDING, SO I CAME TO A BOARD MEETING AND I SPOKE AFTER ARCHITECT RAUCH WHO SAID EVERYTHING I WAS SPEAKING IN THE WHOLE HELL OF A LOT MORE.

I'M HAPPY TO SEE THE PEOPLE THAT ARE HERE.

ALL THE DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES YOU NEED TO COME UP WITH WHAT I HOPE YOU WILL.

ONE THING I HEARD WAS A CIVIC CENTER.

I LOOKED UP THE OXFORD DICTIONARY DEFINITION OF IT AND I DON'T THINK A CIVIC CENTER IS WHAT WE WANT.

I MEAN, TO ME, THAT IS WHERE PEOPLE GO TO VISIT CONCERTS AT A GOVERNMENT BUILDING.

THE OTHER THING I WANTED TO MENTION, I HEARD CHAIRMAN LUECK TALK ABOUT THERE'S A PROCESS FOR FIGURING OUT WHICH ALLEYS GET DONE.

WHILE I KNOW WHAT THAT PROCESS IS AND I AM REALLY UNHAPPY WITH THAT, TOO.

THE PROCESSES SOMEONE COMES OUT AND TAKES A LOOK AT THE ALLEY AND SAYS, WELL THAT ONE IS OKAY.

WITHOUT TAKING INTO ACCOUNT OTHER THINGS, AND I BROUGHT THIS UP, NOT TO THROW A DART AT YOU, BUT BECAUSE WE HAVE BEEN ON THE LIST SINCE LATE 2017 AND THEN WE GET PUSHBACK, AND WE GET PUSHED BACK, AND WE GET PUSHBACK AND THIS YEAR WE ARE OFF ENTIRELY AND WE CALLED OUT YOUNG MAN WHO COMES OUT AND CHECKS THINGS OUT, AND HE EXPLAINED TO US HOW IT HAPPENS.

THAT IS BASICALLY ALL I HAVE TO SAY.

GOOD LUCK TO YOU, GOOD LUCK TO US, I THINK IT IS GOING TO BE INTERESTING TO WATCH.

THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU.

>>SPEAKER: SO IN ADDITION TO OUR IN PERSON PUBLIC COMMENT, WE ALSO HAVE TWO WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMENTS THAT I WILL READ INTO RECORD AND WE HAVE COPIES OF THEM TO PASS AROUND.

COMMENT ONE COMES FROM KEVIN BRUBAKER.

THANK YOU FOR SERVING ON THIS IMPORTANT COMMITTEE.

BY WAY OF BACKGROUND I CLEARLY REMEMBER TOURING VILLAGE HALL THE DAY OPENED IN 1975.

I WAS THEREFORE SHOCKED THAT ANYONE WAS CONTEMPLATING TEARING IT DOWN.

IT WAS AND IS A MODEL OF OPEN ARCHITECTURE REFLECTING OAK PARK'S DEMOCRATIC VALUES.

UNTIL THE POST COVERED WALL OF PLEXIGLAS TURNED THE FACILITY INTO A POOR COPY OF 1/19 CENTURY BANK, VILLAGE HALL WAS OPEN AND WELCOMING. THE VILLAGE - THE FACT THAT VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS WORK SIDE-BY-SIDE AND WITH EASY PUBLIC ACCESS FOSTERED VALUES OF PARTICIPATION AND COOPERATION.

AND WHILE IT IS UNFORTUNATE THAT THE POLICE DEPARTMENT WAS RELEGATED TO A WINDOWLESS BASEMENT, THAT DECISION WAS MADE AT THE REQUEST OF OAK PARK'S POLICE CHIEF.

LIKE MANY BUILDINGS APPROACHING MIDDLE AGE, THIS ONE IS A NEED EVERY HABILITATION.

AS YOU CONTEMPLATE THIS THOUGH, I URGE YOU TO THINK MODESTLY AND CREATIVELY.

MODESTLY OAK PARK DOES NOT NEED A MASSIVE BUILDING RENEWAL OR A NEW VILLAGE HALL.

WE SIMPLY NEED TO FIX THE LEAKS, IMPROVE ACCESSIBILITY AND BUILD AN IMPROVED POLICE FACILITY PRETTY MUCH OF THE WHITE-COLLAR WORKFORCE IN AMERICA NOW WORKS A HYBRID SCHEDULE.

DON'T BUILD OUT SPACE FOR EVERY EMPLOYEE TO BE AT VILLAGE HALL 40 HOURS PER WEEK.

CHALLENGE ANYONE WHO TELLS YOU VILLAGE STAFF IS OUTGROWING THIS BUILDING.

CREATIVELY, WHEN THE POLICE EVENTUALLY MOVE OUT OF THE BASEMENT, WHAT OTHER VILLAGE NEEDS TO BE ADDRESSED BY THAT SPACE?

ARE THERE SCHOOL, LIBRARY, PARK SERVICE OR TOWNSHIP NEEDS THAT COULD BE MET?

FOR EXAMPLE, WHAT ABOUT D97 OUT OF 541 MADISON AND PUTTING THAT BUILDING BACK ON THE TAX ROLLS.

ALTERNATIVELY, WHAT VILLAGE SPACE COULD BE MET ELSEWHERE?

FOR EXAMPLE, I VISITED A NUMBER OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES YOU CAN CHECK OUT A BOOK, PAY A PARKING TICKET, PICK UP A PERM APPLICATION ALL IN ONE BUILDING.

LOOK FORWARD TO FOLLOWING YOUR PROGRESS, KEVIN BRUBAKER.

COMMENT TWO, RECEIVED FROM MICHAEL IVERSEN.

FACILITY REVIEW COMMITTEE.

THE FOLLOWING IS PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING TONIGHT'S MEETING ON THE VILLAGE HALL BUILDING.

ONE, ON THE FACILITY REVIEW MITTY'S WEBPAGE I NOTICED TWO DOCUMENTS WERE PREVIOUSLY COMPLETED, BUT NOT INCLUDED.

REFERENCED OR DISCLOSED DURING THE JULY 5, 2023, VILLAGE BOARD DISCUSSION ON VILLAGE HALL.

THEN HE REFERENCES THE AGENDA MOTION, MOTION 23-67, A MOTION TO SELECT AN OPTION FOR THE POLICE STATION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT AND DIRECT STAFF TO PREPARE FINAL CONCEPTUAL DESIGN PROCESSES IN ADVANCE TO SOMATIC DESIGN.

THE VILLAGE BOARD'S SELECTED OPTION.

THESE DOCUMENTS ARE AS FOLLOWED.

VILLAGE HALL FACILITY CONDITION ASSESSMENT, CORDOGAN CLARK, JUNE 6, 2023.

SPACE NEEDS PROGRAM, FGMA, MARCH 3, 2023.

WHY WEREN'T THESE DOCUMENTS MADE PUBLIC PRIOR TO THE VILLAGE BOARD MEETING ON JULY 5 OR REFERENCE DURING THE MEETING AS THEY WERE ESSENTIAL TO ANY DISCUSSION?

TWO, THE VILLAGE HEALTH FACILITY CONDITION ASSESSMENT, CORDOGAN CLARK, JUNE 6, 2023, PROVIDES A TOTAL ESTIMATED COST FOR ALL RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS OF \$5.5 MILLION.

THIS IS SIGNIFICANTLY BELOW PREVIOUS COST ESTIMATES BY FGMA, AND DISCUSSED BY THE BOARD FOR VARIOUS RENOVATION AND NEW CONSTRUCTION OPTIONS.

BETWEEN \$75 MILLION AND \$135 MILLION.

HOW CAN THERE BE SUCH A DISPARITY BETWEEN CORDOGAN CLARK AND FGMA COST ESTIMATES.

THREE, SPACE NEEDS, FGMA, MARCH 3, 2023, DESPITE THE TREND TOWARDS LESS STAFF AND SPACE NEEDED FOR MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS DUE TO ONLINE RESOURCES AND REMOTE WORKERS, FGMA SOMEHOW CALLS FOR 17 MORE STAFF POSITIONS AND AN ADDITIONAL 9200 SQUARE FEET OF SPACE.

MOST ADDITIONAL STAFF ARE CATEGORIZED AS INTERNS, ASSISTANCE TO DEPARTMENT HEADS, AND FUTURE STAFF.

ALSO THERE IS NO MENTION OF HOW MANY OFFICE POSITIONS HAVE BEEN REPLACED BY REMOTE WORKERS AND THEREBY DOWNSIZING SPACE NEEDS.

IN SUMMARY THE PREVIOUS VILLAGE BOARD PUBLIC DISCUSSIONS REGARDING VILLAGE HALL HAVE NOT BEEN TRANSPARENT, HAVING EXCLUDED ESSENTIAL DOCUMENTS.

FURTHERMORE, THE INFORMATION PREVIOUSLY PROVIDED BY FGMA IS HIGHLY QUESTIONABLE BOTH IN TERMS OF COST AND SPACE NEEDS.

I RECOMMEND THE FACILITY REVIEW COMMITTEE REFLECT AND REVIEW PRIOR VILLAGE BOARD DISCUSSIONS AND REESTABLISH A CREDIBLE AND ACCURATE AND OF INQUIRY.

REGARDS, MICHAEL IVERSEN.

THAT IS ALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT.

From: [Paul Harding](#)
To: [Facility Review Committee](#)
Subject: MGM Village Hall Preservation and Adaptive Reuse
Date: Wednesday, January 17, 2024 5:02:07 PM

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input. I have lived in Oak Park and River Forest for the last 46 years. I am a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects and own a 1901 Frank Lloyd Wright House.

The size of the Police Department proposed facilities is way oversized and skewing the process. A criminal justice architectural consultant should be hired to vet the program areas proposed by your architect. You will find that the proposed police department areas are larger than they need or should be.

Paul Harding, FAIA

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Sproule, Robert

From: Frank Lipo <franklipo@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2024 5:00 PM
To: Facility Review Committee
Cc: Trexler, Susan
Subject: Letter in support of preserving village hall, connecting to new police station

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization.

March 13, 2024

Dear Chairs Lueck and Rousch and Member of the FRC:

I attended your first three meetings in person and have watched with great interest and appreciation for the expertise of the JLK team and the thoughtfulness of the FRC discussions. I fully support the idea of the preservation of the key character-defining features of our National Register-listed Village Hall, even as we find creative ways to notably improve accessibility, sustainability, and functionality.

I am intrigued by the concept of adding a new "glass box" structure at the south/parking lot entrance that would address and in some cases solve some key issues with our Village Hall. It would provide a well-defined main entrance point and would provide a connection/shared lobby with the proposed new police station somewhere on the southern portion of the site. This common lobby would provide elevators, restrooms, a security desk, a small meeting room, and other amenities, offering a welcoming point to both structures, old and new. A drop-off circle and a re-defined parking lot, perhaps with some underground parking, would make the entire site more functional.

I believe JLK should continue on its work to more fully develop the historic preservation sensitive adaptive reuse and the addition of a new and compatible lobby/entrance addition.

But I believe your recommendations to the Village Board should also come with a call to reactivate the existing outdoor plaza along Madison, charging staff to find ways to use the space for community festivals, more amenities for staff break time, al fresco meetings, and the like. The so-called Madison Street "road diet" was aimed at increasing bike and pedestrian use in the corridor and programming that space would aid in that goal.

Further, the strip of green lawn at the southern edge of the parking lot was designated as the site of a future addition. If part or all of that space is used for the new police facility, a publicly accessible green roof might be an environment and neighbor friendly part of the project.

I have a work conflict and cannot attend tonight's meeting and I look forward to watching the video and learning the final details of what you will be forwarding to the Village Board for its consideration at its April 9 meeting. Thank you!

Frank Lipo, 535 N. Ridgeland Ave.
franklipo@sbcglobal.net

