

Dear DMI members:

Thank you for your membership and support over the last year. I am sending you this message because we need your help. March of 2009 the DMI Board of Directors approved the redevelopment of the Edgewater site. The following is our approved position: *“DMI supports the concept of expansion/redevelopment of the Edgewater property for its economic development benefit and we endorse the concept relative to enhancing public access to Lake Mendota and possible TIF benefits such as for historic preservation in Mansion Hill. We expect further city and neighborhood processes to review design issues.”*

The City of Madison Landmarks Commission did not approve a letter of appropriateness for the Edgewater proposal last Tuesday night. With the strong support of Mayor Dave Cieslewicz, the Hammes Company (who is looking to redevelop the site with a \$93 million project) has filed an appeal to overturn the Landmark’s position at the December 8th City of Madison Common Council meeting. We urge you to contact your Alder, write a letter to the editor or (even better) speak at the Council meeting on the 8th.

The proposed project will provide public access to Lake Mendota with a large public plaza with views of Lake Mendota. The proposed project also greatly improves the current site with not only the public space but also the \$93mil of investment that improves the value of the property and will provide TIF increment that can be used to improve the historic buildings in the Mansion Hill Neighborhood. This is an extremely crucial vote because if the Council does not override the Landmark’s position with 14 votes, the project is dead. If you would like additional information on this proposed project or on talking points for letters or addressing the Council, please contact me. If you need information on your Alder please visit the following site:
www.cityofmadison.com/council/.

If you are able to attend the Council meeting please arrive at the City County Building on Martin Luther King Jr., Blvd. between 6 and 6:30pm. You can either sign-in to speak or sign-in for support not wanting to speak. Let me know if you plan to attend the meeting because I will look for you and help you sign-in if you need.

Thank you very much for your support with this extremely important project for not only the downtown but also for the city as a whole.

Susan Schmitz

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