Advocacy News

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By Kurt Stege, Advocacy Committee Co-Chair

A Redevelopment Proposal for the 400 Block of State Street is Appealed to the Common Council and Scheduled for Public Hearing on May 7

On May 7, the Madison Common Council will vote on the future of State Street's 400 block. The block is dominated by two-story buildings from the 1800s and 1900s. The proposal is to demolish three of those buildings and replace them with a single six-story mixed use structure including five floors of market rate apartments.

The north side of most of the 400 block of State Street.

The south side of most of the 400 block of State Street.

400 Block of State Street: The Plan Commission's Action is Appealed to the Common Council

Last month, Advocacy News covered the Madison Plan Commission's vote to "place on file" the developer's application to demolish three historic buildings in

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the center of the last undisturbed block of Madison's premier street. Just two days later, Alder Juliana Bennett announced she was appealing the Plan Commission's action to the Common Council. See Dean Mosiman's article in the April 3, 2024 Wisconsin State Journal. When the Council meets on May 7 to conduct a public hearing and to consider the appeal, it will require a 14-vote supermajority of the 20 alders to reverse the vote of the Plan Commission.

There is little dispute that the buildings, two of which were constructed in the 1890s, have been subjected to long-term neglect by their owners and property managers. These circumstances were central to the discussions by the Plan Commission.

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