



April 18, 2013

Mr. Tim Parks
City of Madison Plan Commission
201 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd Room LL-100
PO Box 2985
Madison, WI 53701-2985

RE: 130 East Gilman Street – Land Division/Certified Survey Map

Dear Tim,

The Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System is submitting an application to subdivide our current parcel at 130 East Gilman Street (Parcel #251-0709-144-0203-0). This action will allow us to dispose of approximately the front half of our property as the University no longer has a use for the building on the proposed Lot 1. The facility will be first offered to other University of Wisconsin System campuses/functions before a public sale would occur.

The Board of Regents will continue use of Lot 2, which houses the university's Lifesaving Station, part of our Department of Environmental Health & Safety. The station, on Lake Mendota, provides lake safety and rescue operations serving boaters and swimmers of the UW-Madison and greater Madison community.

It is difficult to project what the future use of Lot 1 will be, but likely it will be residential or office/commercial uses based on the size and layout of the large house. The house was built in 1855-1856, by Julius T. White and was first known as the "White House". The building was purchased in 1883 by then governor Jeremiah Rusk, who sold it to the State of Wisconsin for use as the governor's executive residence. Including Rusk, seventeen Wisconsin governors have lived in the house through 1949. Governor Warren P. Knowles resided there for a short period of time in 1956 during the remodeling of the present executive residence in Maple Bluff. The house was purchased in 1950 by the University for use as graduate student housing for our Knapp Scholars program. The building was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973 and has been designated as a city of Madison Landmark. If the Board of Regents sells the property, a permanent historic preservation easement/covenant will be attached to the transfer deed to assure the historic building is maintained appropriately per the National Park Service's Secretary of Interior Standards.

The house on Lot 1 is in generally fair condition and useable in it's current state, but will need some improvements to keep some of the old sandstone exterior from further deterioration. The house is also not fully accessible for individuals with disabilities. Interior walls are lathe and plaster which shows some minor cracking in a few rooms. At this time there are no plans by the university to further develop Lot 2 (the property around the Life Saving Station) or make significant changes to Lot 1 prior to disposition. Those involved in this land division/CSM process include:

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Sincerely,

Gary A. Brown, PLA, FASLA
Director, Campus Planning & Landscape Architecture

Xc: Tammi Alexander, Michelle Burse

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