

EDGEWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY
5358 N. Ashland Ave.
Chicago IL 60640

October 8, 2007

Alderman Mary Ann Smith
5533 N. Broadway
Chicago IL 60640

Dear Mary Ann:

Thank you for agreeing to meet with us to discuss ways in which we can achieve preservation of the significant buildings in Edgewater, particularly the remaining single family homes along Kenmore and Winthrop.

In advance of our meeting with you, we would like you consider some additional requests. Most are procedural and policy in nature and for the most part do not require approval by any other body. You can implement them yourself. And we urge you to do so.

Regarding the proposed development that would require the demolition of the orange-rated home at 6018 N Kenmore, we ask you to take the following actions:

1. Call both the developer and owner and tell them that you are opposed to the development because it involves the demolition of an orange-rated single family home that you want preserved.
2. If it comes before the Z&P, clearly convey to the delegates that you are against the demolition of this orange-rated single family home.
3. Delay bringing the proposal before the Z & P until after January if the developer does not drop his plans for demolition.
4. Put a hold on any demolition permit requested by the developer and insist in a personal call to the City commissioner whose department issues such permits that you do not want to see the house demolished.
5. Insist to Brian Goeken, Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Planning and Development, Landmarks Division, that it become a City Landmark.

6. Prepare an ordinance to down-zone the property to R-3 and have that proposed ordinance held in committee. You have done this before on at least two occasions.

If this important home is to be saved from destruction, urgent action is required. If demolished it would be the first orange-rated home in Edgewater to suffer such a fate.

With respect to future developments, we ask you to do the following:

1. Notify the Edgewater Historical Society at the same time that you notify ECC, EDC, and the appropriate neighborhood or condominium association and/or chamber of commerce of any proposed development in the ward north of Foster. In the case of the proposed development for 6018 N. Kenmore, we did not learn of it until *after* NEBA had heard the presentation of the developer. Shelli Lulkin called me on August 15th to tell me about it. [In fairness, we should point out that Doug Fraser did email us toward the end of August notifying us of the proposal.] We request that you create an Edgewater Historical Society group email address that would included me, [bmayian@sbcglobal.net], LeRoy Blommaert [jlcochran1886@yahoo.com] Kathy Gemperle [kathygemperle@yahoo.com], Thom Greene [thom@gpdchicago.com], and Mark Palermo [mapalermo@cps.k12.il.us]. Having more than one person contacted will ensure that the notification is timely received, as one or more of our members may be out of town or indisposed.
2. Also send the EHS group an email when you first receive a FAX notifying you of a request for a demolition permit for any property north of Foster.
3. If a proposed development involves the demolition or substantial alternation of an existing structure, ensure that the Z & P agenda clearly states that, e.g. *Demolition of a brick single family home at 6018 N. Kenmore and the construction in its place of an 8-unit , four-story condominium building. Property is zoned xx. Only alley access is requested.* If the structure that would be demolished is orange-rated, state that in the write up as well.
4. If a proposed development involves the demolition of a structure and the developer is allowed an opportunity to make a presentation at the Z & P meeting, offer the EHS the opportunity to also make a presentation.
5. Adopt a policy that you personally do not want to see the demolition of any orange-rated properties along Kenmore and Winthrop or any other properties in this area that the EHS has designated as significant (either individually or in context with one or more adjacent properties). Ensure that your office staff conveys this policy to any prospective developer that calls on the office. Administratively, this should not be difficult. All orange-rated properties are available on line via the Department of Planning's Landmark Division website, which is fully searchable. And you have the listing of significant single family

residences along Kenmore and Winthrop which we provided you several years ago.

6. Advise ECC and the appropriate neighborhood association of your personal objection to the demolition of the structure when you notify them of the new construction proposal.
7. If the proposal comes before the Z&P committee, clearly state to the delegates that you are opposed to the project because it requires the demolition of the existing structure and that you conveyed that position to the developer when he/she/they met with you or your staff.

Thom Greene and LeRoy Blommaert would like to take you on a guided tour of the significant single family homes along Kenmore and Winthrop to show you why they are significant and why they should be saved. Thom would talk about the architecture and LeRoy would talk about the history. We hope you will be agreeable to going on such a tour with them.

I have enclosed with this letter a fact sheet on 6018 N. Kenmore and a discussion paper prepared by LeRoy Blommaert regarding the use of TIF money to preserve some of the significant single family homes along Kenmore and Winthrop.

We look forward to a productive meeting with you.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Mayian
President
For the Board of Directors of
the Edgewater Historical
Society

Enclosures (3)

Cc: Doug Fraser
Marge Britton

LeRoy Blommaert
Kathy Gemperle
Thom Greene
File