

Re: LU 12-0005  
April 16, 2012

My name is Marylou Colver, I live at 68 Leonard Street, and I'm president of the Lake Oswego Preservation Society.

The first pre-application conference for this project was held in June 2011. The public cannot attend pre-application conferences, there are no minutes of these meetings, and the most current HRAB meeting minutes posted on the city's website are for the February 9, 2011 meeting over one year ago. I believe my testimony at the first hearing is accurate, and that approval of this application may diminish the historical significance of this landmark property. However, in preparing that testimony, I was not privy to the details of the 10-month long process.

Since the initial hearing, I have had the opportunity to meet with the homeowner and the architect. Fellow Lake Oswego Preservation Society officer, Erin O'Rourke-Meadors, also had a telephone conference with the applicant. Although we continue to agree with the opinion shared in the March 5, 2012 letter from Julie Osborne, Preservation Specialist at SHPO, we have concluded that city code and the process are at fault and that the applicants have sought to act in good faith in complying with city code.

The fact that Staff and HRAB disagree with the expert opinion of SHPO is a red flag that action is necessary to improve the process. The City of Lake Oswego is a Certified Local Government or CLG. One stated benefit is that "CLGs are able to tap into the expertise and resources of these agencies in order to help address their local preservation issues." I don't believe that there is a staff person, a DRC member, or an HRAB member that holds a degree in historic preservation, but as a CLG there is access to this expertise. Also as a CLG, training in historic preservation is available for city staff, DRC, and HRAB members. The city readily takes advantage of the grant monies provided by SHPO, perhaps the city should take advantage of the other benefits available to CLGs and recognize the responsibilities this status entails. Seeking training opportunities for landmark board and commissions members is in fact one of the performance standards for CLGs.

[http://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?q=cache:sa9TqGEOzbcJ:www.oregon.gov/OPRD/HCD/SHPO/docs/clg\\_performance\\_standards.rtf+oregon+certified+local+government&cd=3&hl=en&ct=clnk&gl=us&client=safari](http://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?q=cache:sa9TqGEOzbcJ:www.oregon.gov/OPRD/HCD/SHPO/docs/clg_performance_standards.rtf+oregon+certified+local+government&cd=3&hl=en&ct=clnk&gl=us&client=safari)

These CLG performance standards also state: "The CLG **must** [emphasis added] seek the expertise necessary to make informed decisions about historic and prehistoric cultural resources." It is recognized that both professional and lay people will serve on bodies such as DRC and HRAB so "At a minimum, the CLG **must** [emphasis added] make a reasonable effort to seat commissioners with a demonstrated positive interest in historic preservation" and that "The CLG must provide the SHPO with the opportunity to comment on qualification of candidates prior to their appointment." Recent experience appears to demonstrate that these standards are not being honored.

I recognize that this is beyond the task at hand this evening, but the application process

EXHIBIT G-1  
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would benefit from:

- 1) Designating a planning staff member who would be assigned to all historic properties
- 2) Staff working more closely with SHPO to take advantage of the expertise they provide to CLGs
- 3) Instituting training in historic preservation provided by SHPO for staff, DRC, and HRAB
- 4) Taking additional steps to ensure that all DRC and HRAB members have the required "positive interest in historic preservation"
- 5) Providing information, such as minutes of HRAB meetings, to the public in a timely manner

Lastly, in discussions outside these hearings, the applicant has offered to create detailed drawings of the east façade so that this documentation could be available for future architectural historians or even serve as a blueprint to return the house to its original state. It is requested that this offer be made a condition of your decision if you should approve LU12-0005.