



June 4, 2019

Paul Farrow
Waukesha County Executive
515 W. Moreland Blvd. Room 320
Waukesha, WI 53188

Re: Moor Mud Baths/Former Health and Human Services Building

Dear County Executive Farrow,

As you are aware, the City of Waukesha and the Landmarks Commission were supportive of Waukesha County's previous efforts in 2014-2015 to sell or lease the former Health and Human Services Building. The size of the building and the exterior of the building, which retains all of the architectural features that contributed to the building's inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places (1983) and Local Landmark Designation (2001), would make this a very attractive redevelopment project for office or residential uses. The availability of both State of Wisconsin and federal Historic Tax Credits also will contribute to interest in the property by developers.

Since this issue was last addressed, several positive things have occurred. The Landmarks Commissioners voted unanimously to grant a COA to the County to demolish the old dormitory wing of the building. The County acquired a substantial number of additional parking spaces, as a result. Also, the building became more attractive for developers of historic properties as a result of the dormitory wing demolition.

The City of Waukesha Landmarks Commission would like to suggest a possible path forward by developing a Request for Proposals which follows accepted industry standards to assist in the sale or long-term lease of the former HHS Building. We feel that some project parameters and selection criteria which would result in a redevelopment project that is beneficial to both the County and City are:

- The City of Waukesha's February 2019 Housing Study and Needs Assessment indicates a need for additional senior housing.
- Parking requirements for senior housing only require one space per unit and 4 visitor spaces, per City Senior Planner Jeff Fortin. These reduced parking requirements for senior housing will allow for a smaller sale/lease area, allowing for the County's future parking needs.
- There is no requirement for a second point of access for this building as long as an easement or purchase of the existing road is established so there is access to Riverview Avenue.
- Multi-family residential developments under 125 units would not require a Traffic Impact Analysis. Since there is already adequate pedestrian access to the site/building, there would not be a need for traffic signals or pedestrian signage.
- The Community Development Staff supports a rezoning of the former Health and Human Services building and lands immediately adjacent to it to allow for senior multi-family development.
- A Land Use Plan Amendment also has Community Development Staff support.

We are attaching a letter from Jeff Fortin, City of Waukesha Senior Planner, to a previously interested contractor reflecting the City's willingness to work with the County on the issues of parking and access to the site. It is dated July 24, 2015.

The City of Waukesha has recently hired Colliers International to assist the City in our real estate transactions and redevelopment projects, having most recently engaged them in drafting and marketing a Request for Proposals for the redevelopment of City owned properties on Delafield Street across from City Hall. Colliers has an extensive network of connections with developers and would be available to assist in the marketing of this redevelopment opportunity.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this further, our Commission staff contact is Charlie Griffith at 262-524-3529. On behalf of the Landmarks Commissioners, thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Lisa Salb, Chairperson
City of Waukesha Landmarks Commission

cc: Paul Decker, Waukesha County Board Chairperson