

Allen, Amber

From: Salie, Matt [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2022 9:36 AM
To: PAZ Preservation
Subject: Comment for Case #HR-2022-011680 (700 E. Monroe)

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Hello!

My name is Matt Salie, and I am writing to voice an opinion regarding the proposed demolition of the property at 700 E. Monroe Street.

My wife and I live right around the corner at 1500 East Side Drive, and pass this property every day when we walk our dog around the neighborhood.

I do not have a strong opinion about the actual demolition of this particular house, or the probability of a modern home being constructed in its place. The Travis Heights neighborhood is already an even mix of old and new homes, and I do not believe arguing for this property's preservation would be particularly fair to the new owner since there are already so many new properties that stand where there once sat something historic. I am even of the opinion that the mix of residential styles adds to the unique visual character of the neighborhood- it is a reflection of the blend of personalities found in the neighborhood, and each home is an artistic expression.

However, what helps unify and anchor all of these different properties is the respect shown to the landscape and environment. What makes Travis Heights so beautiful are the limestone rocks, winding creeks, parks, and lush trees.

The property at 700 East Monroe has a very mature oak tree that sits right at the corner with Sunset Lane, mere feet from Blunn Creek. This tree absolutely adds not only to the curb appeal of the home, but also to the beauty of the whole neighborhood. It shows signs of previously being de-limbed in a few places, but has clearly stood there for quite a long time.

My desire is that this tree would be left undisturbed during the design and construction of whatever new build would be going in the current house's place. My concern is that an architect would want to make the property reach a certain height, or place a driveway that feeds into Sunset- potentially feeling that the tree would then become inconvenient for the design.

I believe that while personal tastes in residential styles might come and go, the land must be respected- otherwise the real, irreplaceable character is lost and a neighborhood risks becoming a physical representation of an identity crisis. There are tons of developments popping up all over the place as the city continues to expand. What sets places like Travis Heights and Zilker apart from many of the others is the environment itself, and we must strive to maintain it.

All that said, I am not against the construction of a new property in the existing one's place, so long as the tree remains untouched. If the plans include its demolition or disfigurement, then I will have to formally adopt a position of strong opposition to the project.

Thank you all for taking the time to read my comment. Workers in your field often find themselves in very difficult positions, as it is more often than not hard to please everyone involved in a project. Your work is appreciated and we respect your final judgement in this case.

Thank you!

Matt

MATT SALIE // Industry Contracts Support Specialist
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN // Office of Industry Engagement

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