

21 June, 2010

Marsha Moermond
Legislative Hearing Officer
Office of City Council
15 W Kellogg Blvd
St Paul, MN 55102

As a part of the public hearing held June 15, 2010, you asked for a plan regarding scaffolding that has been the subject of a code enforcement abatement order, issued 6/3/10 for 79 E Isabel. This address is one of four for this property, 77-79-81-83 E Isabel.

For the last three years the scaffolding has been moved across the front of the house, east to west. Also during that time, it has been down and loaned out to other projects.

The scaffolding is currently on the south side of the building. It is set up to a level of five frames, two across (i.e. 30 feet high by fourteen feet across). It was set up September, 2009 and left up over winter 2009/2010 to finish some details this summer and to make sure wood repairs had held.

Over winter 2008/2009, it was not up at all. In spring of 2009, it was put out on loan and not even on this property until September, 2009.

This year I plan to get to the west side of the building and hopefully get around to the back three dormers. The good news is that there is no architectural detail, just trim. While this trim is difficult to access, it does not need as much repair and treatment as was required for the south facing side of the building. The bad news is that there is a lot of trim, since the building is e-shaped on the north side.

The really scary part is the possibility, that it will be time to start around the building again by the time the first pass is finished. Most likely a second time around will be easier and less time consuming. This trim had not been touched probably for fifty plus years and then it was only a coating of paint.

My intention this week, weather permitting, is to finish two items:

1. Paint a couple of spots that were missed last November on the trim of the 3rd floor attic balcony.
2. Paint four windows at the second level to match the trim color that I am using. These windows currently do not need painting; it is only a color change.

As explained at the hearing, I want to do more work on the 3rd floor attic balcony. Such is more easily accomplished with the scaffolding up. Particularly important is to get the opening "more pigeon proof". My hope is for something decorative and distinctive.

As of today, I am awaiting some input on the design and can not project an estimate on completion.

That being said, I am in hopes that by this time next week, I can give you an estimate for the removal of the scaffolding from the front of the building.

After the scaffolding is taken down from the front of the building it will go up on the west side of the building as mentioned above.

I will be able to give you a better sense of timing by the middle of next week. Your patience will be kindly appreciated.

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