

From: [Melissa Sargent](#)
To: [Historic District Commission \(Staff\)](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Detroit Waldorf School outdoor structures
Date: Monday, May 9, 2022 5:12:17 PM

Dear Historic District Commission,

I am a Detroit resident and parent of three current students at Detroit Waldorf School. Our family is very grateful for the addition of the outdoor structures at the school. Without these structures, our children would not have been able to attend school in person during the 2020-21 school year and undoubtedly the COVID case numbers of the school community would have been much higher this year.

With the uncertainty of the on-going pandemic, I believe the school will need to continue to rely on the outdoor classrooms for open air and safe distancing. Beyond that, the structures have proven to be optimal settings for learning.

The structures themselves were professionally designed and built with quality materials. The structures are an aesthetically-pleasing addition to the outdoor landscape of the property, which is always carefully maintained. The Detroit Waldorf School has cleaned up and transformed formerly vacant lots as a part of this transition to outdoor learning, making these renovations a true asset to the community. These structures have also served as settings for outdoor music and play performances and community festivals and faires.

In this era of nearly-constant connection to the on-line world, I greatly value a school setting that clearly prioritizes connecting children with nature and their immediate community. These structures are an integral tool to accomplishing DWS's educational mission.

I strongly encourage you to approve the Detroit Waldorf School's outdoor classrooms as permanent structures.

Sincerely,

Melissa Cooper Sargent
East Ferry Warren Neighborhood resident

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