

Steve,

Thank you for this. Just wanted to introduce myself and give you a bit of background before Monday's hearing. My wife and I bought the property in Jan 2013, largely because we loved the charm and character of the 1940 home. Since buying, we've had 2 girls (now 2 yrs and 3 weeks old) and have spent considerable time and resources trying to determine how to maintain, restore, and potentially add on to the existing structure. The current home is a bit of a mess. About 40-50% of the structure was an addition to the back of the home (presumably 10+ years ago) and the existing wood shingled roof is under the new roof line up in the attic (a massive amount of weight on the structure). Any changes would require tear off and rebuild of the entire roof structure and likely a completely new steel support structure for any type of 2nd floor addition. Additionally, there was foundation work done to the home before we bought it (not sure when) but the house continues to shift considerable from warm/dry to cold/wet months. Doors don't close properly and floors are uneven. Doing any type of addition or remodel has been deemed cost prohibitive through discussions with several contractors.

Additionally, there is a major moisture and mold problem in the house that I've had a half dozen contractors and HVAC companies look at. Water runs under the home when heavy rains come and I've spent several thousand dollars having a moisture barrier/insulation sprayed under the home but that has not helped. It constantly smells musty and there is visible mold around the air ducts. It definitely concerns me having my family living in the home.

Being an Austin resident of 15+ years, the last thing I want to see is the city turned "new" but in this case I feel like we've exhausted all options. Our intention is to tear the house down and build a very nice/appealing home for my family to move back in to. We actually moved out to a rental home a week ago (with a 2 week old!) assuming we would have the demo permit and are ready to begin construction. I certainly understand and respect the process that we need to go through for approval to demo but I hope the circumstances and work done to date will allow the commission to approve demolition on Monday.

I look forward to meeting you on Monday and greatly appreciate any additional info/advice you can provide.

Regards,
Chris Munson