

Thursday, November 15, 2018

City of La Crosse  
Board of Park Commissioners  
400 La Crosse St.  
La Crosse, WI 54601

Dear Board Members,

Please deny Weiser Brothers' request to remove trees from the boulevard at 315 5th Ave. S. in front of the Food Co-Op (File #18-1595). As a downtown resident and People's Food Co-op Member, I would like to see these street trees preserved for several reasons supported in Walkable Communities' "Urban Street Trees: 22 Benefits."

- Trees create a safer walking environment by forming a buffer between the sidewalk and the street.
- Research has shown that businesses on treescaped streets show 12% higher income streams, which is often the essential competitive edge needed for main street store success, versus competition from plaza discount store prices.
- Trees reduce stormwater management costs. Trees absorb the first 30% of most precipitation through their leaf system and another 30% taken in and held onto by the root structure.
- Trees can reduce sidewalk and street temperature by 5-15 degrees, extending their life by 40-60%.
- Street trees absorb more pollutants from vehicle exhaust including ozone.
- Street trees have a calming effect. People are impacted by ugly or attractive environments where they spend time, even when they are driving.
- Street trees are associated with \$15-25,000 increase in home or business value, which adds to the tax base.

The City should protect and expand street trees downtown, where they are the most vulnerable and also have the most potential to do good. Please preserve these trees and deny this request.

Thank you for your consideration,



Lewis Kuhlman  
222 Jay St.  
La Crosse, WI 54601