

## Craig, Sondra

---

**From:** Elsen, Nikki  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 29, 2021 3:05 PM  
**To:** Craig, Sondra  
**Subject:** FW: Rezoning of Fish Hatchery Building - Riverside Park

*Nikki M. Elsen, WCMC*

City Clerk  
City of La Crosse  
608-789-7555 phone  
[elsenn@cityoflacrosse.org](mailto:elsenn@cityoflacrosse.org)

**From:** Kathleen Johnson <kath.john1212@att.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 29, 2021 2:30 PM  
**To:** Elsen, Nikki <Elsenn@cityoflacrosse.org>  
**Cc:** stopa@mac.com; kath.john1212@att.net  
**Subject:** Rezoning of Fish Hatchery Building - Riverside Park

---

**\*\*\* CAUTION: This email originated from an external sender. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. \*\*\***

---

July 29, 2021

Nikki Elsen  
City Clerk  
City Hall 2nd Floor  
400 La Crosse St.  
La Crosse, WI 54601

Ms. Elsen,

As residents of the Riverplace apartments we enjoy Riverside Park and the International Gardens. The grounds are quite beautiful and the number of visitors and traffic through the park has been consistent yet reasonable.

The grounds are well kept with the City and Volunteers shouldering this responsibility. The Gardens have also been used by several photographers in the area as a location for their wedding, graduation or family sessions.

The parking area seems to be adequate to support the people enjoying the park and gardens. The La Crosse Queen paddle boat cruises also seem to be doing a steady business as well, with many of the passengers enjoying the Gardens prior to or after their cruise.

In summery this area is a very tranquil setting enjoyed by the citizens and visitors of La Crosse, (to include the residents of Riverplace.)

The proposed change in zoning to accommodate an 110 person commercial event center will introduce higher levels of traffic, noise, litter, congestion, potential damage to the plants and water features of the garden. As we understand the proposal would potentially include the ability to serve alcohol and provide a shuttle from a remote parking location to accommodate the event attendees. The addition of this event center with remote parking adjacent to the city's park would undoubtedly increase the need of patrols in the area to assure adherence to the park rules. The opposite end of Riverside park includes the La Crosse Center which is an event center built to handle large size crowds and has plenty of parking as well.

We are requesting the City rethink and deny this proposal for an event center in the Fish Hatchery Buildings. While the need for additional revenue may be the driving force here, wouldn't a coffee shop, or ice cream parlor be more of an appropriate type of business for these buildings? Perhaps a location where local artisans could sell their products? A business which all visitors to the park could enjoy and would bring the influx of traffic more to a consistent flow.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Kathleen Johnson  
John Stopa