

## Craig, Sondra

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**From:** Odegaard, Jason  
**Sent:** Friday, October 7, 2022 11:01 AM  
**To:** 'Joella Striebel'; Richmond, Andrea; Janssen, Barb; Kahlow, Chris; Woodard, Chris; Hameister, Jenasea; Trost, Jennifer; Mindel, Mackenzie; Neumeister, Scott; Reynolds, Mitch; ZZ City Clerk External  
**Subject:** RE: J&A 22-1140

Good Morning Joella,

I apologize for the delay in my response. I did meet with school district representatives concerning Forest Hills possibilities in the past. There are a number of barriers, not related to golf operations.

1. The property in question was gifted to the city by Hellen B Hixon for use as a city park/golf course.
2. The property is divided by the rail road, and the east side of the tracks would need to be utilized. The rail road also has setbacks of easement for more than 50 yards on either side of the tracks. This does not include setbacks for any type of development.
3. The area to the east of the tracks contains one of the shallowest aquifers in the region. (Natural springs occur regularly and often times a golf cart cannot drive there)
4. Silver Creek(runs through a culvert under the tracks) is the tail out of a very large drainage watershed for that entire valley. This has created ongoing issues with bliss road.

Most of these concerns are related to water, the increase in large rains continue to cause significant destruction even to a golf course. I would also like to point out that while the main purpose of the property is the golf course, this property is heavily used as a city park. Cross Country meets, dog walkers, sliders and skiers are just a few groups that utilize this area. It offers a significant amount of recreational opportunity and also environmental benefits to the entire community.

The parcel to the east of the tracks is currently zoned conservancy, which would not allow for construction of a school. The west side of the tracks is currently zoned residential which hinders school construction. The request I have taken to the council is public/semi-public zoning. This is the same zoning most schools currently have. With that said, while I do not support the sale of this property, the zoning will not in anyway deter the possible school discussion in the future.

Please let me know if you would like to discuss further.

## Jay Odegaard

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A ship is safe in the harbor—but that's not what ships are for.

**From:** Joella Striebel <joellastriebel@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 4, 2022 2:36 PM  
**To:** Richmond, Andrea <richmonda@cityoflacrosse.org>; Janssen, Barb <janssenb@cityoflacrosse.org>; Kahlow, Chris <kahlowc@cityoflacrosse.org>; Woodard, Chris <woodardc@cityoflacrosse.org>; Hameister, Jenasea <hameisterj@cityoflacrosse.org>; Trost, Jennifer <trostj@cityoflacrosse.org>; Mindel, Mackenzie <mindelm@cityoflacrosse.org>; Neumeister, Scott <neumeisters@cityoflacrosse.org>; Reynolds, Mitch

<reynoldsm@cityoflacrosse.org>; Odegaard, Jason <Odegaardj@cityoflacrosse.org>; ZZ City Clerk External  
<cityclerk@cityoflacrosse.org>

**Subject:** J&A 22-1140

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Good afternoon members of the Judiciary & Administration Committee, Mayor Reynolds, and Mr. Odegaard,

My apologies for the tardiness of this inquiry, I had hoped to have more time to research this issue and speak to several of you directly about the questions I have related to the Forest Hills property and this legislation.

As you know, there is a highly contentious referendum on the ballot this November that seeks to build a consolidated high school on the far South end of town on the Trane site. By my assessment and that of others whose counsel I trust, this referendum is highly likely to fail. I myself plan to vote against it at this time, as I cannot in good conscious vote for something that will inequitably disadvantage my Northside neighborhood for generations to come.

The Forest Hills site has come up as a site that would be more centrally located, more equitable to both the North and South side, and a site that the school district itself would prefer over the proposed Trane location.

I am writing today to inquire whether a 60 day referral of this legislation might provide an opportunity to explore whether the City, in the best interests of this community for generations to come, might explore the possibility of selling this site to the School District if indeed the referendum fails. A 60 day referral would allow for the referendum outcome to be known, and may provide an opportunity to explore whether such a sale is feasible or possible.

I understand that there are deed restrictions on portions of the property that were donated that may preclude the placement of a high school on those portions. It is also my understanding that the portion of the property occupied by the golf course and clubhouse and owned by the city are not subject to these deed restrictions.

I humbly submit my perspective that a new consolidated high school \*in a centralized location\* is a far greater need in and benefit to our community as a whole than a golf course and clubhouse. Everyone in our community benefits from a well educated public, while only a select few benefit from a golf course. The use of this property for a school rather than a golf course would additionally be a huge win for our climate goals as a community.

Please consider delaying this legislation until after the referendum outcome is known, and after exploring every possible avenue to make this property available to the school district pending a future referendum.

I welcome your feedback and perspectives, if this is considered an impossibility, as I admitted, I have not had the opportunity to look as deeply into this as I would have liked.

Thank you as always for your service to our community,

Joella Striebel