

Craig, Sondra

From: Elsen, Nikki
Sent: Monday, October 25, 2021 12:58 PM
To: Craig, Sondra
Subject: FW: Hatchery lease

From: dave skoloda <daveskoloda@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 21, 2021 11:46 AM
To: ZZ Council Members <ZZCouncilMembers@cityoflacrosse.org>
Subject: Hatchery lease

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To: Members of the Park Commission
From: Dave and Gretchen Skoloda, 14 Copeland Ave. La Crosse

“In scarcely anything to be determined by local public opinion acting influentially upon local legislation and administration, is a city likely to be so much made or marred for all its future as in proceedings in prosecution of a park project.”

Frederick Law Olmstead

“The life history of humanity has proved nothing more clearly than that crowded populations, if they would live in health and happiness, must have space for air, for light, for exercise, for rest, and for the enjoyment of that peaceful beauty of nature, which, because it is the opposite of the noisy ugliness of towns, is so wonderfully refreshing to the tired souls of towns-people.”

Charles Eliot

These are the quotes used by renowned landscape architect John Nolen, designer of the La Crosse park system, to begin his report on progress of the system to the community in 1911.

I judge by his choice of words that he would likely view the proposed “Hatchery” project for Riverside Park as having a negative outcome for the community — bringing the “noisy ugliness of towns” into the park environment.

Commercial development in the park, making some parts of it off limits for the free access by the public as envisioned by the park’s founders, might have offended the following donors as well — that the public has become unwilling to provide the funds to match their generosity, instead turning to the short-sighted introduction of commercial enterprise subsidized by the public maintenance of beauty.

Nolan wrote:

“May their personal satisfaction equal the pleasure their generosity will give to the thousands in years to come: The following gave their river front property which made Levee Park possible: J.J. Hogan and family, G.A. Kaeppler, S. B. Oatman, S. Y. Hyde, W. W. Cargill family, Emil T. Mueller, T. H. Spence, Isidore Schilling,

The following gentlemen subscribed the sum of \$43,000 to aid in the expense of making Levee Park: Henry Gund, I.C. Colman, H.L. Colman, E. I Colman, F. P Hixon, Gero. C. Hixon, I. F. Easton.

We oppose the proposed Hatchery lease as a poor deal for the citizens of La Crosse.