

Acklin, Tim

From: Karen Acker <kacker@centurytel.net>
Sent: Monday, June 8, 2020 12:02 PM
To: Acklin, Tim
Subject: Budget item #443, Weigent Park Shelter

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To Members of the Plan Commission,

I am writing to urge your support for Capital Budget Item #443, "Weigent Park Shelter."

Weigent Park is a centrally located park within La Crosse. The park shelter is in dire need of replacement. Please fully fund it in the upcoming capital improvement budget (\$300,000).

The shelter is in poor condition. Some wall boards are damaged, the paint is weathered and inconsistent (in some spots it looks like a few paint colors were being tested). Currently the interior space is mostly used to store equipment for recreational programs, and it is not furnished or equipped for hosting groups. The bathrooms are porta potties (outhouses).

The Parks Department can gain revenue through rental of park shelters, but the Weigent Park shelter is not inviting. Who would want to bring local or out of town family and friends to a park shelter that looks like a shack? Looks aren't everything, but they help. Speaking of looks, very close to the park are some of La Crosse's most impressive, and impressively maintained, historic houses. And in Weigent Park, a shack.

A new shelter could include energy efficient features, saving operating costs. A modern building is easier to maintain.

The playground at Weigent was recently updated with all new structures and is hugely popular. A new shelter would be an appropriate complement. People bringing their kids to the playground would recognize the shelter as the place for their next group gathering.

Please support the Weigent Park Shelter, Item #443, in the budget. Thank you.

Karen Acker
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