

ReNew the Block | Letter of Support

NewGround

CIP Final Budget Review, City Plan Commission

City Council Members,

As one of the collaborators of ReNew the Block, I am writing this letter to express my support for the project, item #758. NewGround is a partner for leaders who are restoring our waters, land, and communities. Leaders just like our local Habitat for Humanity. Again and again, Habitat for Humanity La Crosse has shown their commitment to sustainability, affordable housing and neighborhood revitalization. The ReNew the Block project, highlights these commitments, and much more.

The total budget for ReNew the Block is over \$700,000. This is not a small project. The \$50,000 requested, from the Capital Improvement Project Budget, would not only provide financial help for physical infrastructure (excavation, berms, swales, bio-filter rain gardens, native plantings, permeable pavers, etc.), but it will serve as a catalyst for additional funding from outside sources.

With a project of this size, no outside funder is going to support us if our own local government does not. We have gotten verbal blessings from basically every department within the City of La Crosse, but without some sort of financial commitment from the City, this project is dead in the water.

We have an opportunity with ReNew the Block to make a tangible difference in our community while helping the City of La Crosse achieve various Comprehensive Plan goals including; sustainability, urban development, food deserts, neighborhood revitalization and public education.

This project has been in the works for 3 years now. Partners are committed, proposals and budgets are established, site plans and renderings are developed and outside funders have been approached. We are ready. Ready and waiting for a financial commitment from the City of La Crosse, so we can move forward and make this crazy, sustainable idea a reality for our community.

Thank you,

Amy Smith

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