

Craig, Sondra

From: Elsen, Nikki
Sent: Monday, August 16, 2021 9:37 AM
To: Craig, Sondra
Subject: FW: Do not privatize public property

From: c <cvanmaren@protonmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 14, 2021 7:59 AM
To: ZZ Council Members <ZZCouncilMembers@cityoflacrosse.org>
Subject: Do not privatize public property

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I am emailing to ask you not to follow through on the park department's plans to hand over the fish hatchery building to a private company for private profit. Maybe I don't understand how this proposed transfer would work. If the plan is to allow a private company to control a public space, then, no. If the plan is for a private company to lease space and help provide a public service, then that hasn't been clear in the publicity and reporting and that might work.

Please make the priority be: how can this space serve the public residing 8n La Crosse and visiting the park?

Many parks of this stature have a public restaurant and event facility. There are no rentable shelters here. Why can't this building serve that purpose?

Just a couple of weekends ago, my daughter and I met up with Oregon cousins for a great afternoon at the Lakeside Pavillion in Saint Paul's Como Park, enjoying music and dining outside after purchasing food from the restaurant that leases space there. (<https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/como-regional-park/como-lakeside-pavilion>) This would be a great use of the fish hatchery space.

If the building could become something like this - a PUBLIC space with a restaurant and publicly rentable (affordable) space, then I would vote for that. With the number of locals, visitors, and boat tourists, I can imagine that it would be a popular stop for many. And having more public space available to rent (like BRB and Southside neighborhood center - provided it doesn't cost a day's wage for an hour's rent) would be helpful.

The complaints about noise are kind of hilarious given the many raucous events hosted in the park, but a restaurant as described, should not become a loud party venue.

We love our parks. Rather than send them begging to private companies we should be funding them at proper levels. What is the budget to maintain our precious parks versus the budget, say, to park others's precious cars?

Myrick is a great example of what NOT to do. Once an always busy outdoor gathering place for local families anchored by the Soo and play yard, now it's relatively empty, with the building closed, often, to ordinary people who can't afford high rental fees and advertised as a wedding venue. This should not happen to any other public spaces in our city in my opinion.

Again, maybe I've misunderstood the plans here, but basically I would like this facility to remain public and for the public. And I think having a restaurant, maybe one that uses part of the space for aquaculture to grow fish and greens or something, and neighborhood center-style space for public use would be the best way to go.

Thank you for listening. No need for feedback. Please keep public space accessible to and for the public.