

Craig, Sondra

From: Elsen, Nikki
Sent: Monday, March 7, 2022 9:49 AM
To: Craig, Sondra
Subject: FW: Item # 22-0181, and ordinance to amend subsection 110-115 of the Code of Ordinances

Nikki M. Elsen, WCMC

City Clerk
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From: Ralph and Nancy <nancyandralphknudkin@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 7, 2022 9:43 AM
To: ZZ Council Members <ZZCouncilMembers@cityoflacrosse.org>
Subject: Item # 22-0181, and ordinance to amend subsection 110-115 of the Code of Ordinances

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We are citizens of LaCrosse and members of the board of Friends of the Marsh, and are writing to express our concern regarding the process and haste to move to amend the status of a multiple dwelling district, to change it to heavy industry at 2550 County Road SS for purposes of rezoning for development by Harter Company for stated purposes of road building to allow heavy equipment storage on the floodplain.

The process to amend the ordinance by the Judiciary and Administration Committee has been contrary to recommendations by the City Planning Commission, and done without consideration of impact of such a zoning change and land use change on overall planning for floodplain land in the LaCrosse Marsh. Specifically, no input or understanding from FEMA or DNR about complications or restrictions regarding floodplain use has been considered. The City's own Floodplain Advisory Committee, Climate Action Committee and Parks and Recreation's engineering contract with Smith Group regarding a years-long, multimillion dollar marsh restoration have not been consulted thus far. This rush to hurry to move on ahead on permanently impacting yet another part of the marsh to suit a private (and still unclear) timeline is unseemly and contrary to good city government policy and procedure. There is no good reason apparent to feel compelled to decide this matter immediately.

We urge you to defer a decision on this matter for at least 30 days, and only after you have learned more from the three city entities authorized to have input about marsh and floodplain matters; plus state DNR authorities and federal FEMA authorities regarding impact and restrictions about proposed change in use of floodplain land under city jurisdiction.

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