

RECEIVED
JUL 12 2018

From: fishwoll <fishwoll@aol.com>
To: kabatt <kabatt@cityoflacrosse.org>
Cc: fishwoll <fishwoll@aol.com>
Subject: killing the goose....
Date: Thu, Jul 12, 2018 2:04 pm

Dear Mayor Kabat:

I am writing to express dismay at the current proposal for renovations at the La Crosse Center. Over the last years, I have watched as the city has prusued development that will increase tax base, and at the same time preserve quality of city community and life. This design will refute all of these.

When we market ourselves and our city to outside investment, one of the most significant selling points is the unique beauty of our geography. There is precious little of that left downtown in the clutch of hotels and multi-use buildings. I understand development, but this is entombing what we use as a reason to come here. It is killing the goose that lays the golden egg, or river....

There is such a small piece of green left along the river that is truly open public space. It is not just space to fill with concrete and income. Limiting the south end is not just "using unused space". It is boxing in in what is left to a token, the IDEA of green space on the Mississippi while the actual spaciousness is gone.

It is a suspended concrete parking lot, a well cap, might as well be a freeway overhea, tombstone in design. I realize that it may have seemed exciting at first look but it will not age well and we cannot afford the loss, or the cost.

From some who work there and my own observation the Center needs real renovation. Functionally and aesthetically it was old before the last one was finished. There is room all around it and in it for more creativity. Low buildings that can rise with a view even. Paving the sky over riverside to sell it off to a few at a premium defies the fact that this is public treasure.

I also deeply resent the ~~extortion-like~~ pressure of "do it now or it will cost more". No, it will be money well NOT spent . That kind of pressure points clout threatening those who will not go along with a slick deal. It makes one really suspicious and anxious to track money and promises possibly prematurely in flow. Spend the money, less of it, on making the center a special place reflecting the extraordinary PUBLIC and environmental setting. No, the center building is not what I mean by public.

I came from the east coast 37 years ago to settle in this place. I am in the park most days. This place is the river. The building proposed defiles this and defeats our image and marketing promises, for the gain of very few. Let them go elsewhere with concrete slabs.

I will try to be there tonight but my representative seems unavailable.

Janet Wollam and Dana Fisher
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