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From: Vicki Magadanz <magadanzvicki@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 7, 2024 10:26 AM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Resolution for camping in Houska Park

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Good Morning Council Members,

I am writing you with my concerns about the proposed resolution for camping in Houska park.

I am a city resident and also a slip holder at Municipal Boat Harbor.

In the past when camping was allowed it was a disaster. The trash (some which was hazardous materials) including needles was literally knee deep at times. The city did supply dumpsters but the homeless refused to use them. I'm sure a few did but the majority did not. I cannot comprehend why they are so disrespectful of the people that are trying to help them. It seems there are very few rules for them to follow. I witnessed people strung out on who knows what loitering on the docks at the harbor, in the parking lot , the green space etc. If you have never seen these people high I'm here to tell you that it is down right scary and I don't frighten easily. I could go on and on with examples of issues but I'm sure that you have heard them already.

Another concern I have is tourism for the city. We have several river cruise boats docking at Riverside Park. The view of Houska as a tent city from the river is an embarrassment for the city of LaCrosse. The people on these cruise ships could potentially return to LaCrosse as a vacation destination and I don't think that if the first thing they see is Houska Park in that condition that they will ever want to return. This can have a huge impact on the tourism industry.

I do not have the answer for the homeless population but I do feel that Houska Park is not the temporary answer.

I also think that these people need to be held accountable for the way they chose to live. Small things like taking responsibility for disposing of one's garbage properly can make a big impact. Maybe a drug free zone and random testing.

I hope that you take my thoughts into your consideration on this issue.

Thank you for your time,

Vicki Magadanz
Sent from my iPhone