

From: Orion Roen <oreoroen@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 2, 2025 6:22 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Regarding water bubblers

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Dear Council Members,

It has been brought to my attention the topic of discussion of the removal/cancellation of the bubblers within the City of La Crosse. I understand the reason for shutting the bubblers off was due to them being out of ADA compliance. In the places I have researched, there are a few things you can do to become ADA compliant without removing the existing historic fountains. I will agree that having non-ADA compliant water fountains is a form of segregation, but removing them completely from service and blaming them on the ADA seems wrong. The ADA was designed to make things more accessible, the opposite of what the city is currently doing with the bubblers. These fountains CAN be modified (or have cast replicas made), to become compliant. (Can this be funded by a grant?) Water fountains can be tapped off the same line that currently feeds the historic fountains. The ADA also allows for special permissions regarding historical artifacts. I believe there are many ways to do this correctly, but turning them off and leaving them off is inhumane; especially when considering our unsheltered individuals.

I am also confused as to why there wasn't a notification from the water utility about the fountains not being operational this year and how the city council was never informed. I feel that somewhere the ball was dropped on communication and this also should be addressed. *(This was the case based on what I have read. If this is incorrect, please disregard.)*

This city has overcome many challenges regarding different topics and issues. I feel this is one more we can also overcome. I strongly suggest the city council members and water utility to work on a solution to become compliant whilst also having public access to water (a basic human necessity).

I thank every member for their attention to this matter.

Orion Roen