## Craig, Sondra

**From:** J Olson <olsonapartments@gmail.com>
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 6, 2025 7:57 AM
**To:** ZZ Council Members
**Cc:** Elsen, Nikki
**Subject:** Bubblers and the ADA

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Dear Council Members,

I am concerned you are being pressured by City Staff and an outside consultant into buying into a very misguided interpretation of the spirit of ADA. I am not a legal expert, but I can apply some common sense. If this interpretation of "equity"(if some people can't enjoy something than nobody should be able to enjoy it) were to be extended and applied to everything the City does for public benefit, then I challenge the same City Staff to justify expending taxpayer dollars on ANY of the following:

1. Public art - People who are blind can't enjoy it.
2. Riverside bandshell - People who are deaf can't enjoy concerts.
3. Any Park playground equipment - Children who are wheelchair bound can't enjoy it.
4. Park & Rec Youth Sports - Children with severe asthma or other physical disabilities can't enjoy it.
5. Trails and Swimming Pools - People with severe asthma can't enjoy those either.
6. Park & Rec equipment rental - how does a wheelchair-bound disabled person enjoy renting a kayak?

There's more but I risk beating this point to death.

Not to mention, the City offers employment opportunities which clearly(and quite legally) discriminate against disabled persons(police and firefighters have to meet physical and mental fitness standards to serve in these roles).

I'm sure that City Staff, for budgetary purposes, would much prefer anything old be ripped out and replaced with brand new—it would be less maintenance costs over the long run, but this is why we have a City Council empowered to overrule the Staff when appropriate. We need to preserve the little things in our public spaces that make our community beautiful, nostalgic and sentimentally connected to its people. So many La Crosse people(myself included) have shared memories of these beautiful bubblers as part of their childhood growing up spending summers in La Crosse. It would be cost prohibitive to ever create such beautiful public amenities once these are gone, and we will have something out of a catalog in its place that looks no different than public bubblers in "Anytown, America". Please prevent this fate from happening to La Crosse.

If you are worried about the City being sued, please contact the consultant who is recommending removal and ask them to explain why providing a second ADA bubbler adjacent to our preserved historic ones would not satisfy their interpretation of the standards. As the Council, you have the authority to direct City Staff to put out requests for bids to get estimates of this option from contractors so you can make informed judgement and gather public feedback on what the costs would run.

As a former Council Member, I can unfortunately speak to you from direct personal experience of being bullied, lied to, harassed and buffaloed by City Staff(a department head who is no longer at the City) when I was a Council Member trying to effectuate my constituents' clear and unwavering desire to see Memorial Pool restored and preserved at its historic location. It's not easy to be an elected official, and I appreciate your service to the community.

Thank you,

Jessica Olson
Fmr CM Dist 8