

21-1012

Craig, Sondra

From: Elsen, Nikki
Sent: Friday, September 10, 2021 1:34 PM
To: Craig, Sondra
Subject: FW: Fish Hatcher proposal

From: barbarajanney899 <barbarajanney899@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, September 10, 2021 1:20 PM
To: ZZ Council Members <ZZCouncilMembers@cityoflacrosse.org>
Subject: Fish Hatcher proposal

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I
Dear Councilmembers,

I am contacting you in hopes you will take time to review the ramifications of the proposal on the table to turn the Fish Hatchery building into a wedding, airb&b and wine bar.

I think if you allow time for the public, your constituents, to review this proposal you may hear concerns of the pitfalls and the downside of going forward.

Riverside Park is one of the city's crowning glories of La Crosse. This proposal will change the family park we boast of and show off to our visitors. It could so easily turn into a party place instead of a family park where the community can relax and enjoy the natural beauty of our area. This is a unique park in the area where you can experience the Mississippi at river level. Currently it has a 5 Star rating on Trip Advisor.

At the presentation on Wed. Sept. 8th. I heard the presenters down playing the wedding venue, the airb&b and wine bar, and promoting a coffee shop, the public restrooms use, possible art exhibits, gift shops and pop up markets. The later is all wonderful but it would come at the cost of the wedding venue, airb&b and the wine bar.

The wedding venue will have party goers spilling into the park. It is WI, and it is La Crosse where we already have problems with alcohol use. Guest will spill into the park, interrupting family gatherings and picnics. Inhibit the tranquil visits in the International Gardens and the quiet enjoyment of walking, biking and sitting by the river. It will create problems with parking, which we already have. Will we have policing of area to keep this in check?

The airb&b creates more issues. The park currently closes at night. Has the city considered how this will be monitored? Will they have private use of the park after the residents of La Crosse, who have departed, according to the law?

All of this will be in direct competition of businesses and shops downtown. They have a hard time with covid and are receiving assistance just to remain open at this time.

I understand the need for the city to create income. La Crosse is restricted in creating revenue by being locked in by the river, the buffs and communities to the north and south. But I would think there are other ways to do it without commercializing Riverside Park. One attendee at the Sept. 8th meeting brought up North Point. A building or a series of structures could be incorporated in a river park to fulfill that need. This wouldn't disrupt the 110 year old community park dedicated for the use of all La Crosse residents, not just for select paying groups.

The Fish Hatchery building has been costly for the city with the \$500,000 already spent to replace the windows, doors and making the entrance ADA compliant and gutting the inside. Fish Hatchery LLC is getting a shell ready for build out to suit. I know there is restoration work which needs to be done and know that is factored in their expenses. Not having them do it will cost the city some money. And doing it this way would take an expensive building off the city's hands. But it seems there are other, community friend, ways this building could be used to leave the park for La Crosse residents without impeding it's use.

Thank you for reading this. Please give this more time so La Crosse residents, your constituents, can be informed and understand what this proposal could do Riverside Park

Sincerely,
Barbara Janney

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