

Trane, Andrea

From: tranea@cityoflacrosse.org
Subject: FW: Future of the South Branch Library building and park

From: Barrett Klein <barrett@pupating.org>
Sent: Tuesday, June 25, 2024 9:48 AM
To: Emslie, Julie <emsliej@cityoflacrosse.org>
Subject: Future of the South Branch Library building and park

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Dear Julie Emslie,

I have reviewed the three revised proposals to re envision the South Branch Library building and surrounding areas of our neighborhood park in La Crosse. I have been attending neighborhood meetings and have sensed (and share) a general concern that either remodeling the park to reduce green space or tear down the library to build additional housing would be a short-sighted, poor choice that would reduce the quality of life in our community. This parcel of land represents a necessary green space and to modify and reduce it further would be taking La Crosse and our neighborhood community in an irreversibly negative direction -- away from our climate change needs, locally and globally. Biodiversity is on the decline, and to increase the density of housing at the expense of park area will mean increased resource demands, and have a negative impact on the insect (including pollinator), bird, and plant diversity and abundance in the area.

I strongly suggest rejecting proposals by Spies Construction and Willow Grove LLC, and considering this as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to consider the space in a more productive, nature-preserving manner. This park could be an enhanced green space, or, as was promised by previous proposals (for example Girls Scouts), a space to be used with nature conservation and celebration in mind.

The proposal promising to do the least harm is by Tostrud & Temp. Though not ideal, it is the best option of the three.

Thank you for considering these thoughts. I would be happy to personally discuss these concerns further.

Sincerely,
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