



Alder Patrick Heck

District 2

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May 2, 2022

Eric Knepp and Board of Parks Commissioners
Department of Public Works, Parks Division
210 Martin Luther King Blvd., Room 104
Madison, WI 53703

Dear Mr. Knepp and Commissioners:

I strongly support renaming the Yahara River Bike Path to **Ed Jepsen Way**. Ed's work along the Yahara River is legendary amongst Tenney-Lapham neighbors, as well as his lengthy service for the Parks Division and other city entities. Honoring his memory by naming the bike path after him seems more than appropriate.

Due to recent redistricting, I no longer represent the Tenney-Lapham neighborhood, but I still live in the neighborhood as I have since moving to Madison in 2003. After several years in Madison during which I got to know my new neighbors and as I became active in the neighborhood association, Ed's name came up over and over again as an advocate and resource for implementing and understanding the 1998 Yahara River Parkway and Environs Master Plan and the later Yahara River Corridor planning process. His selfless dedication to our parklands was witnessed by all many times over.

Ed's advocacy for the creation of the bike path that runs under E. Washington Avenue and E. Johnson Street along the river was invaluable to the adjacent neighborhoods and all of Madison. The bike path allows children to bike daily on their way between their homes and either Lapham or O'Keefe School. If you have not done so, I encourage you to visit the path on a school day morning; the number of biking and walking children is inspiring. Of course, the same hold true for adults moving back and forth between the two neighborhoods. All seasons of the year the bike path is used by folks of all ages - bikers, runners, walkers, people heading to the river to fish or to use the tennis courts, people walking to the Tenney shelter to ice skate or to vote and the list goes on.

Naming any area in any park after one individual is a big ask as there are so many dedicated people in our community who deserve recognition. However, Ed Jepsen was a truly exceptional advocate for our community's parks, and the respectful, collaborative way he went about his advocacy is a measure that the rest of us can only hope to emulate. For those reasons, I support renaming the bike path to the **Ed Jepsen Way**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick Heck". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Patrick Heck
Alder, District 2
City of Madison Common Council