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7/12/13

July 9, 2013

City Engineering Division  
Department of Public Works  
210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.  
Madison, WI 53714

**RE: Appeal to City of Madison regarding "Prohibited Use of Public Greenway"**

To whom it may concern at Board of Public Works:

Today I received a letter from the Department of Public Works (namely City Engineer Robert F. Phillips) regarding a fence and yard waste in the public greenway directly behind my property. This was quite a surprise, since I bought this home 3 years ago, and the fence was there when I purchased the property. I believe the so-called encroachment to be small, and so am asking for some flexibility for myself and my neighbors.

As for the "yard waste," the large brush pile on the public land, and the plantings surrounding it were also back there when we purchased this home 3 years ago, and we have not added to the pile. I sometimes notice passers-through throwing things on/into the pile, and if it is trash, I personally clean it up. My neighbor informs me that the brush pile consists only of debris that has fallen from the trees planted on city land. I do not use that area to dump yard waste. I place my brush on the curb.

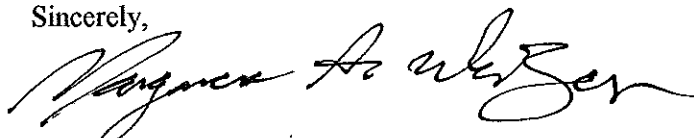
I contacted my alderperson about 2 months ago regarding a large amount of garlic mustard growing on the city land, wondering if we could get support from the city to manage it. I received a response from my alder, letting me know he would notify the appropriate people at City of Madison. A week or two later, I noticed surveying equipment around the public land. Meanwhile, I personally pulled large areas of garlic mustard from that area, bagged it, and brought it for proper disposal at the City's waste area at Sycamore. Perhaps these bags were considered yard waste? They were only there for a day or two.

I also notified my alder that the City of Madison was treating that area as a "waste area," which is mostly neglected. There are dead tree branches back there in need of trimming, and my neighbors and I mow that area so it does not become overgrown.

I am seeking leniency for myself and my neighbors concerning that area of city land. I would happily participate in a clean-up of the brush and any "yard waste," but feel that moving our existing fencing is an unreasonable request. If we are forced to move the fence, I ask that we be given time to plan, to cooperate with neighbors, get bids, etc. I am happy to host a walk-through of the area(s) in question with someone from the city, and discuss the issues that need to be taken care of.

I will be out of town July 13 - 27, and unable to attend any meetings during that time. Please contact me via cell phone or email to let me know if/when I would need to attend a meeting to discuss this case.

Sincerely,



Margaret Weiser  
4506 Hamlet Circle  
Madison, WI 53714

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7/12/13, 10:14 AM