

**From:** [Briant](#)  
**To:** [Plan Commission Comments](#)  
**Subject:** Supporting Voit Farms  
**Date:** Thursday, August 31, 2023 7:35:40 AM

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Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello members of the Plan Commission and Common Council,

I am writing today in support of the proposed plat for the Voit Farms development. Although only the plat is up for debate at the Plan Commission meeting on the 28th, I would also like to provide thought on the overall features of the plan:

- The mix of residential and commercial space is good to see in a new development. Too often new subdivisions focus solely on residential uses, which forces residents to go farther to meet their basic needs and promotes car-oriented development.
- I applaud the inclusion of permanent affordable housing through an option to the Madison Area Community Land Trust. Madison needs affordable housing, and it's promising to see it included in a new subdivision.
- I strongly feel that the Chicago Avenue extension should be exclusively bike-ped only. The city has a goal of reducing carbon emissions, and an important way to do that is to prioritize walking and biking over driving. It is difficult to effectively build a bridge that accommodates ped-bike-auto movement together, and a bridge that allows cars will preclude good bike and ped connectivity to the new neighborhood.
- The gridded streets are a good feature of this subdivision. Although the extra connections on Milwaukee Street may not be nice for drivers, they will make the pedestrian walking experience better and should be included in the plat. An alternative would be to limit car intersections to every other crossing, but create bike/ped connections at every crossing point.
- I am disappointed that the proposed units have been reduced to around 1,100 from the previous versions of the proposal. This site is the perfect location for affordable, sustainable homes, and it should be home to even more of them. I urge you to resist any future attempts to decrease the number of units, and instead explore the possibilities of adding more residences.

I hope you will take a moment to consider my comments, and think about what will be best for Madison in the future, not just now. Please think about what will be best for residents of this development, and not just people who are here now.

Thank you,

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**Briant Novinska-Lois**

*Urban & Regional Planner (Multimodal Transportation)*

*"Your bike is discovery; your bike is freedom..." -Doug Donaldson*

**From:** [William Ochowicz](#)  
**To:** [Plan Commission Comments](#)  
**Subject:** Support of Voit Farms Development  
**Date:** Monday, August 28, 2023 11:26:10 AM

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Hello members of the Plan Commission,

I am writing today in support of the proposed plat for the Voit Farms development. Although only the plat is up for debate at the Plan Commission meeting on the 28th, I would also like to provide thought on the overall features of the plan:

- The mix of residential and commercial space is good to see in a new development. Too often new subdivisions focus solely on residential uses, which forces residents to go farther to meet their basic needs and promotes car-oriented development.
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I hope you will take a moment to consider my comments, and think about what will be best for Madison in the future, not just now. Please think about what will be best for residents of this development, and not just people who are here now.

Thank you,  
Will Ochowicz

**From:** [Ruth Ellickson](#)  
**To:** [Plan Commission Comments](#)  
**Cc:** [Ruth Ellickson](#)  
**Subject:** Voit Farm Sale  
**Date:** Friday, August 25, 2023 9:22:10 PM

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Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Plan Commissioners,

As the sale of the Voit Farm is set for your commission's reviews with facts and opinions flooding your spheres, I hold on to hope that this body of astute, morale, and wise leaders takes this responsibility very, very seriously. Your next moves will have many crucial and lasting effects on our precious city.

I hope you review and clearly understand possible detrimental repercussions. Like most adults learn in time, please admit any lack of understanding, ask for continuance to study options, future collaborations, and taking temporary creative risks.

During the past years SavetheFarm discussed layers of potential collaborative efforts, we numerated gains from every potential input; neighbors, friends, CSAs, MTC and UW agriculture and global associations as well as WI state funding/grants creating connections our city and state have not yet dreamed of (or discussed publicly).

Please, take this task seriously. Understand the issues. Tell us you simply need more time. Buy some time, buy some acreage, perhaps.

Sincerely,  
Ruth Ellickson

**From:** [Nicholas Davies](#)  
**To:** [Plan Commission Comments](#)  
**Subject:** Voit Farm street network  
**Date:** Sunday, August 27, 2023 8:17:51 PM

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Dear Plan Commission,

I'm eager to see this big part of my neighborhood be used effectively. I hope it not only provides a lot of much-needed housing, but also the Milwaukee Street corridor could really use more activated frontage, to provide destinations for new and old neighbors alike. That was one of the big disappointments when we couldn't rezone the Amazon property just east of the farm.

If there's to be a connection to Chicago Ave, let's not make it a vehicular cut-through. That won't be good for anybody. A pedestrian bridge would be great, especially if a narrower right of way means Jeanie Kramer doesn't have to lose her house on Fair Oaks.

Regarding the connections to Milwaukee Street, I don't see a problem with disrupting Milwaukee Street traffic. If anything, it could use more natural traffic calming! However, if it's a choice between one street that meets signal warrants vs. three that do not, a signalized intersection would be a lot safer for pedestrians and cyclists.

Thank you,

Nick Davies  
3717 Richard St