

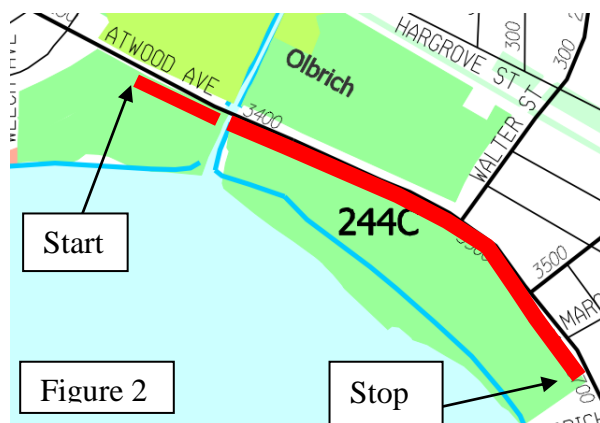
Proposal by Madison Veterans for Peace Chapter 25 for a Memorial Day-Week 2011 Observation

Memorial Day is Monday May 30. We propose to the Parks Commission a week-long “Memorial Mile” gravestone display in Olbrich Park along Atwood Avenue, as we did there 3 times before (Veterans Day 2007, Memorial Day 2008, Memorial Day 2010) and well as twice at Forest Hill Cemetery (Veterans Day 2008, Memorial Day 2009). (We will also observe it with a ceremony on May 30 in James Madison Park as VFP has traditionally done.)

We propose to install the gravestones Saturday May 28, and remove them Sunday June 5.

What: This is a week-long public installation of >5914 gravestone replicas to remember the lives of the U.S. service members killed in Iraq and Afghanistan during the current war. (As of Feb 20, figures are: Iraq 4438 and Afghanistan 1476). Veterans for Peace last organized this event here in May 2010, where it was in place for a week. (Fig 1 shows the Nov 2007 event)

Where: South/southwest side of Atwood Avenue, ~3300 to 3700 block, on the grass adjacent to the sidewalk, away from the street; starting just east of Lakewood Ave (Fig 2), interrupted by Starkwater Creek and the the driveway to the parking lot/boat ramp, continuing, interrupted by Walter Street, continuing to the end of part property just before the Eastside Club



Details: gravestones made of lightweight corrugated plastic, 8” wide and 14” tall, using 2 3/16” diameter metal rods 3” depth in ground for each. The gravestones of the 111 Wisconsin war dead would be marked with small flags. To accommodate >5914 gravestones in the 2950’ along Atwood Avenue, we would position >1183 rows with 2’ 6” spacing between rows, with 5 in a row, with 10” between gravestones in each row, making the row 6’ 8” across. We would have a 4’ setback from the sidewalk (see Fig 1).

Installation and removal: We would assemble ~3 dozen volunteers to set up the gravestones the morning of Saturday May 28; depending upon ground conditions this could take 3-6 hours. We would use the park’s southeast (tennis courts) parking lot as staging areas for a limited number of vehicles carrying supplies, and will request volunteers to park in the Olbrich Gardens parking lot so as not to interfere with boaters using the northwest Olbrich Park lot. We would assemble volunteers to remove the gravestones the afternoon of June 5 and again have them use Olbrich Gardens parking lot.

Grass Cutting: At this time of year the grass may grow quickly during the week of the installation. We have members who have volunteered to trim the grass if necessary during the week with mowers and weedwackers (the rows are spaced to permit a normal size lawnmower between them).

Signage: At the beginning and end, will be signs indicating “Memorial Day 2011- Vets for Peace – Madison ” and contact info. The gravestones will be demarked with signs indicating major events and either Afghanistan or Iraq. Small Wisconsin state flags will mark the gravestones of the fallen Wisconsin service members (106 as of 2/19/11).

Cleanup: During the removal, the area will be swept thoroughly and everything removed, including any flowers that have fallen on the grass.

Personnel: As we did previously, we would organize volunteers to be present 24-7 at a central location, to discuss the memorial with interested members of the public, adjust any blown over signs, etc.

Ceremony: There will be no ceremony at Olbrich Park.

Insurance: As we did in November, we will have a \$1,000,000 general liability insurance policy, with the city named as an insuree.

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VFP contacts:

Richard Chamberlin, 5310 Healy Lane, Monona, WI 53716
cell 770-3762, chamberlin.richard@gmail.com

John Fournelle, 2765 Raritan Road, Madison WI 53711
cell 438-7480, jhfour@gmail.com