Dear Ann, Chris

As you know, isthmus neighborhoods are greenspace deficient, park deficient and canopy tree deficient. The parks we do have tend to be heavily used parks, such as Olbrich Botanical, Breese Stevens, McPike Park and Vilas Zoo. I worry that the Olbrich multi-use path will eat away at this precious resource.

I know you are also aware that the isthmus has lots of impervious surfaces, which affects stormwater run-off, quality of our lakes and streams, and magnifies the urban heat island effect. The further erosion of greenspace for a mulit-modal path would be a real loss.

I strongly support multi-modality. I further support Best Management Practices for lighting. The UW-Extension publication Sensible Shoreland Lighting: Preserving the beauty of the night by David Liebl and Robert Korth is an excellent reference for why preserving our night sky's and minimizing glare, light trespass and sky glow matter, especially along our shores.

Back in 2012, there was a debate over lights on the Southwest Commuter Path. The City's position was that not lighting the trails was not an option." All other bicycle trails have some sort of lighting and safety remains the primary concern...". I worry that situating a multi-modal path along the lake would create a similar situation which would not promote BMP's for the park and lake.

I strongly favor an option for a multi-modal path that minimizes the loss of precious park land and employs BMP's for stormwater (including salt), lighting and existing park uses.

Best, Anne
(no attachments)
Please feel free to forward to Commissions, etc or let me know where I need to send. I apologize, I'm pretty tired and could use the nudge.