

## Bailey, Heather

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**From:** Matthew Frater <matthewdfrater@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 6, 2024 3:43 PM  
**To:** Madison Landmarks Commission  
**Cc:** Bailey, Heather  
**Subject:** Item 4 - Creating a New Historic Marker Program

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Members of the Landmarks Commission -

I wanted to write in with strong support for this reinterpretation of historic markers that better represent the variety of histories and voices in this place.

One comment that I would deeply appreciate the Commission's thought on, with respect to expanding this program:

Two of the markers are set to be placed on Lake Mendota Drive. Considering that the lake name itself was changed by surveyors in 1849 from the traditional Ho-Chunk name to the name we know now as Mendota - I would urge conversation regarding the expansion of this program to rename and reinterpret other histories through the use of this program.

For example - these markers may well have a much larger impact in sharing history if placed on Waaksikhomikra Drive (or other naming guidance given by Ho-Chunk elders), should the City consider renaming Lake Mendota Drive to further reinterpret history from an anti-settler colonial perspective.

This includes many colonial naming conventions that have become codified into names of place under control and guidance of the City. I do not see renaming as a method of honoring and reinterpreting diverse histories within the Historic Preservation Plan, though I would hope it would be an appropriate and timely inclusion into this conversation.

This marker program as a whole is much needed, so thank you for supporting it.

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