

Veldran, Lisa

From: Schmidt, Chris
Sent: Monday, April 21, 2014 8:51 AM
To: Veldran, Lisa
Subject: FW: Replacing Alder Ellingson in the 13th District

-----Original Message-----

From: Shawn Scheys [REDACTED]
Received: Monday, 21 Apr 2014, 8:27AM
To: Schmidt, Chris [district11@cityofmadison.com]; Resnick, Scott [district8@cityofmadison.com]; Rummel, Marsha [district6@cityofmadison.com]; Phair, Matthew [district20@cityofmadison.com]; Weier, Anita [district18@cityofmadison.com]; Ahrens, David [district15@cityofmadison.com]; Bidar-Sielaff, Shiva [district5@cityofmadison.com]; Skidmore, Paul [district9@cityofmadison.com]
Subject: Replacing Alder Ellingson in the 13th District

Dear Chris Schmidt, Scott Resnick, Marsha Rummel, Matthew Phair, Anita Weir, David Ahrens, Shiva Bidar-Sielaff and Paul Skidmore:

I am writing in regard to the review of interim candidates you will be conducting this coming week to replace Sue Ellingson as alderperson in the 13th district.

I have been active in the Dudgeon-Monroe Neighborhood Association since the late 1980's, and have served on committees that include zoning, transportation, Monroe Street beautification, and countless others. Since 2001, I have been a member of the Edgewood-Neighborhood Liaison Committee. Throughout this time, I've worked intensively with the many alders the district has had.

As you know, this has involved working with Ken Golden. Ken has been an integral part of the Dudgeon-Monroe Neighborhood Association history. He partnered with us extensively on projects and issues too numerous to mention, and made an incredibly positive impact on the neighborhood. I respected him immensely; I even put up yardsigns during his last alder campaign.

HOWEVER, I was shocked last fall when he got up before the Plan Commission during a public hearing regarding an apartment development on Knickerbocker Street, and proceeded to negate and denigrate the intents, efforts, and actions of the Dudgeon-Monroe Neighborhood Association.

In summary, he said the DMNA should have no say in proposed developments for the neighborhood because it was comprised - not of elected members - but by whomever chose to show up at its monthly meetings. He claimed that the Monroe Street Commercial Plan, which took 2-3 years to create by dozens of dedicated people, should not be given any weight as it was

simply tossed together. In fact, to hear Ken speak for those very painful 15 minutes, one would assume that the DMNA was not the catalyst for helping to make this neighborhood what it is today. You would not assume that he himself had taken part in discussions about that Monroe Street Commercial Plan, or won council support for his many aldermanic initiatives, or even served as the DMNA Vice President that same year!

I was also disappointed to learn, while serving with Ken on the Edgewood-Neighborhood Liaison Committee, that he attempted to conduct his own individual negotiations with Edgewood outside of our committee. This damaged and undermined the team effort.

Given all of the above, I don't believe he would adequately represent this constituency today. Unfortunately, I cannot become acquainted with the credentials of the other candidates before getting this email to you by today's deadline, so cannot speak to the virtues of another particular person.

Please select someone other than Ken Golden.

Shawn Schey
Woodrow Street

Veldran, Lisa

From: Shirley [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 21, 2014 1:04 PM
To: All Alders
Cc: Veldran, Lisa
Subject: Choice of interim alder for 13th District

To the Madison Common Council:

Although we have a great deal of respect for our former alder Ken Golden and he has achieved wonderful things for our neighborhood in the past, we feel that it would not be advisable to have him serve now as our interim alder. There was widespread opposition in our neighborhood to the Knickerbocker/Monroe St. development plan, and the Dudgeon-Monroe Neighborhood Association took the bold and unprecedented stand on this zoning issue with a 13-2 vote in opposition. Despite this strong neighborhood opposition, former alder Golden pushed strongly in favor of it, and it was approved. His stance on this critical issue has raised question as to whether or not he would fairly represent our neighborhood as interim alder. We feel that it would be better to have someone appointed who is not carrying this extra political baggage.

Thank you for your consideration of these concerns as you make the important decision about whom to appoint to be our interim alder.

James E. and Shirley S. Lake
738 Western Ave.
Madison, WI 53711

Veldran, Lisa

From: Tim Lutz & Tammy Klaproth [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 21, 2014 2:10 PM
To: Veldran, Lisa
Subject: Oppose Ken Golden Appointment

I am writing this to express my strong opposition to the temporary alder appointment of Ken Golden. It is my belief that he does not represent or listen to the views of the neighborhood. He has his own agenda. I want an alder that represents the neighborhood. I think many of us in the dudgeon-monroe neighborhood are tired of the ego.

Sincerely,
Tim Lutz
730 Baltzell Street

Veldran, Lisa

From: Julia Cattani Billingham [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 21, 2014 3:41 PM
To: Veldran, Lisa; Schmidt, Chris; Resnick, Scott; Rummel, Marsha; Phair, Matthew; Weier, Anita; Ahrens, David; Bidar-Sielaff, Shiva; Skidmore, Paul
Subject: CCOC District 13 Alder Recommendations

Dear Alders Chris Schmidt, Scott Resnick, Marsha Rummel, Matthew Phair, Anita Weir, David Ahrens, Shiva Bidar-Sielaff and Paul Skidmore,

I have two concerns regarding the alder appointment for District 13. First, I understand that the Council is leaning toward candidates who claim to not be running in the April 2015 election. The idea of avoiding incumbency is completely legitimate, but I believe the larger danger - especially for an alder who will be appointed, not elected - is the lack of accountability to his/her constituents.

And that brings me to my second concern: Ken Golden. As he is a past alder with extensive connections and experience, I understand that may seem the obvious choice as appointee, with his eighteen-year power of incumbency. I do not know Mr. Golden personally and am relatively new to the Dudgeon Monroe neighborhood. Last Spring, I actively worked with the neighborhood to unsuccessfully revise the Rouse Monroe/Knickerbocker development.

During this most recent example of development, Ken Golden abruptly resigned as chair of the DMNA Zoning Committee, belittled neighborhood associations, and fought against both the DMNA and a distinct majority of individual residents to forgo their wishes and proceed with his personal agenda. Ken Golden has proven himself to be non-responsive and even contrary to the residents of this district in this past year. I strongly believe that appointing Ken Golden, despite his connections and experience, would be the farthest reach from appointing an actual representative of our district, especially given his expressed desire to not ask for our votes in 2015.

With the given timeline, I have not had sufficient time to thoroughly research the candidates. Please reconsider holding a special election so that our district might have true representation.

Thank you for your help and for your continued efforts.

Sincerely,

Julia Billingham
648 Sprague Street
Madison, WI 53711
[REDACTED]

Veldran, Lisa

From: Stephen [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 21, 2014 4:24 PM
To: Schmidt, Chris; Resnick, Scott; Rummel, Marsha; Phair, Matthew; Weier, Anita; Ahrens, David; Bidar-Sielaff, Shiva; Skidmore, Paul; lveldran@cityofmadison.com.
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Constituent Commentary/Input to: SPECIAL MEETING: ALDERMANIC DISTRICT 13 APPLICATION REVIEW & RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL

Dear Alders Chris Schmidt, Scott Resnick, Marsha Rummel, Matthew Phair, Anita Weir, David Ahrens, Shiva Bidar-Sielaff and Paul Skidmore:

I am a registered voter, resident and homeowner in the Dudgeon-Monroe neighborhood, in Aldermanic District 13.

I am hoping that the CCOC will review and seriously consider these submitted comments by District 13 constituents, as there does not seem to be any other forum or opportunity for public input into this important decision by the Madison Common Council. This Aldermanic appointment for the next year will likely have serious, even historic, ramifications for the communities within District 13 and our Madison democratic processes.

The history of the past year demonstrates significant controversy in our community about the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan, the Monroe Street Commercial Plan, and the general principles of community participation. Last summer, a vote for a conditional use permit for the Knickerbocker development went to the Common Council for a late night vote that was nearly a tie. The Longfellow School development was contentious with feelings of misleading information and process. The choice of the current Alder appointee may be the future swing vote on decisions including developments affecting such Madison treasures as the Historic Landmark Plough Inn/Arbor House. Increasing residential density and the city tax base while maintaining the intrinsic charm and character of the District 13 neighborhoods will be the challenge to our leaders and residents, and we need to hear from all well informed stakeholders who deeply care about our great City.

Please consider the democratic input and representation of the District constituents in making this important choice, and please 'nominate' two potential appointees.

I support Zach Madden and/or John Perkins for the CCOC recommendations to the Common Council, as reasonable, well-informed representatives for our District.

I do not support nomination of former Alder Ken Golden by the CCOC. While his honorable history as Alder is respected, I must state that I have witnessed Mr. Golden speak in sarcastic and belittling words to his former constituents during the past year in his presentation to the Planning Commission concerning the Knickerbocker development. Apparently without concern for the Madison Street Commercial Plan, which he had helped facilitate, he showed an unseemly willingness to overturn the stated specific plan recommendations at every opportunity. Mr. Golden exploited his executive position on the Dudgeon Monroe Neighborhood Association to editorialize in the DMNA 'Hornblower', without offering any opportunity of counterpoint by other DMNA members. For these reasons, I fear his promise of listening sessions as disingenuous at this time in his career -- with all due respect to his past leadership.

If CCOC seeks the commitment of all applicants to 'not run' for election in 2015, in order to offset the power of incumbency, Mr. Golden's name should not even be on the list.

It seems that 18 years of incumbency on the Council is his major asset in seeking an appointment to the District 13 Aldermanic position. If CCOC recommends appointment of Mr. Golden on the basis of his 18 years of incumbency, yet would bar other applications who would volunteer for the accountability of the next election, out of a democratic fear that they may possibly benefit from the power of incumbency in a future election, then, well, where is the logic in all that?

Having retired to Pluto as he humorously stated in his farewell letter to the Common Council after 18 years of good service, Mr. Golden now asks to return to his post without the challenges of running for election.

Thank you all for your service to our great City,

respectfully,
Stephen Billingham

Veldran, Lisa

From: Rummel, Marsha
Sent: Monday, April 21, 2014 10:45 PM
To: Veldran, Lisa
Subject: FW: District 13 Alder

fyi

From: Priscilla Arsove [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 21, 2014 3:28 PM
To: Rummel, Marsha
Subject: District 13 Alder

Dear Alder Rummel:

As a constituent of District 13, I am writing to share my concerns regarding the appointment of an interim alder to represent our district over the coming year. I understand that you are a member of the Common Council Committee charged with making this selection and I hope you will find the following input helpful.

First, I understand that some alders prefer to appoint an individual who expressly states that he/she will not run for position in the April 2015. I know I am not alone in the opinion that this effectively robs our district of any accountability by the office holder for a full year. Not only do constituents lack the opportunity to select their representative, under this scenario there would also be no direct incentive for the incumbent to be responsive to neighborhood concerns. I feel strongly that it is in the best interests of the district – and by extension, the City of Madison – to appoint someone who is interested in representing the district long-term. I hope you will do so. Second, regarding the applicants, I oppose the appointment of Ken Golden to this vacancy. While I have worked effectively with Ken in years past and have nothing against him personally, I believe his appointment would antagonize many in the Dudgeon-Monroe neighborhood. Ken's disparaging public comments about the role of our Neighborhood Association last summer are among a number of reasons I believe he is no longer in synch with the neighborhood.

Since the contentious development issues of last summer, many of us in the Dudgeon-Monroe neighborhood are working hard to promote a constructive relationship with our elected officials and the City staff who support them. The City as well as the neighborhood would benefit by the appointment of an interim alder who brings a fresh perspective, open mind, willingness to listen, and genuine interest in problem-solving.

I have been impressed with Zach Madden and hope you will seriously consider his candidacy.

Thanks and regards,

Priscilla Arsove

656 Knickerbocker Street

Veldran, Lisa

From: Rummel, Marsha
Sent: Monday, April 21, 2014 10:45 PM
To: Veldran, Lisa
Subject: FW: Re Alder Choice

fyi

From: Karen Emery [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 21, 2014 3:35 PM
To: Rummel, Marsha
Subject: Re Alder Choice

Dear Alder Rummel,

Thank you for your work on the CCOC as you recommend someone to fill the 13th aldermanic district vacancy. I appreciate the chance to comment. All of the candidates resumes are impressive, with a vast amount of talent and dedication and I leave it to you who have greater insight into what is needed to fill the shoes of an alder for the 13th district. I would make three comments, one general and two specific:

1. It seems to me that a better choice would be one of the candidates who intends, or is open to running when her/his temporary term is up. It must take some time to get up to speed with the different neighborhoods and with city processes and to spend 10 months doing so with no intention of continuing might well be shortchanging residents of the district. If the candidate proves himself/herself worthy and wishes to run, he/she would have some experience upon which residents could evaluate his/her effectiveness, while still having a chance to choose another candidate. If the alder does not intend run, however, we begin anew with a whole new group of candidates.
2. I do want to say a word about Ken Golden. While his resume is impressive, I oppose his candidacy, not because we disagreed during the Monroe Street development controversy, but because he so blatantly and in public downplayed and dismissed the Dudgeon Monroe Street Association, a group he had once been intimately involved with. It seems such a display of disdain would be above anyone serving as an alder.
3. I also want to highlight Zachary Madden's candidacy. We talked to him during the last election and actually voted for him for alder. It seems that with the number of votes he did receive in running against Sue Ellingson, it might well be a nod to all of us who did have faith in him and his ability to listen to the communities. He worked hard, has enthusiasm and youth, and has 10 months to prove himself!

Thank you for allowing comments and I look forward to your informed recommendation.

Sincerely,
Karen Emery
Crandall Street

Veldran, Lisa

From: Perry Sandstrom [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 21, 2014 6:42 PM
To: Veldran, Lisa
Cc: Zachary Madden
Subject: Zach Madden has broad support in District 13.

Zach Madden should be appointed to fill the District 13 council seat. He already has very broad support in the community. He has a real understanding and concern about the environmental and transportation issues in our area. I talked with him at length during his (very respectable) 2nd place run against the incumbent Sue Ellingson last year, and he is smart, very mature and energetic.

He is serious about understanding what constituents want and actually listening with an open mind. He also has good critical thinking skills and ran circles around both his opponents in the televised debates with his knowledge of local issues. Every neighbor I have talked to who met Zach was similarly impressed.

Thank You,
Perry Sandstrom
District 13

Veldran, Lisa

From: Bruce Garner [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 21, 2014 8:19 PM
To: Veldran, Lisa
Cc: zamadden@gmail.com
Subject: District 13 to Zack Madden please

I was impressed with Zach's platform and hard work when he ran against Sue in the last election. I voted for him.

Bruce Garner
Wyota Ave