

submitted by
applicant pl

April 8, 2017

Dear Members of the Zoning Board of Appeals,

My name is Cindy Watson. My husband Dave Silbernagel and I would have joined Susan Landsverk's appeal (LNDAPP-2017-00002) as homeowners at 3726 Atwood avenue but the plans and approval processes for the Olbrich Biergarten drove us to move outside of Madison.

When we purchased our home in 2005 it was with the assumption that it would be our forever home. We loved the location, the amenities, and certainly the view. When we learned we would be having our second child we began plans to build an addition so we could stay in the home that had become a part of our family. A few months into our planning we learned about the proposed Olbrich Biergarten; I felt compelled to get involved and to participate in the process.

My involvement led me to see a very sad reality; no matter my concern, it would be dismissed by the Parks Department. I would have to accept that the very place in the park where my son learned how to kick a ball was now going to be a bar. I asked that the hours be modified to have less of an impact on my children's bedtime, instead learning that the bar would be open until 10 every night. I learned that because I choose not to expose my children to tavern settings that they would no longer be able to play at the public park across from our house.

When I voiced concern about the increase in intoxicated drivers that would be driving by house I was told that the Biergarten wouldn't be 'that' kind of place.

The decision to sell our house weighed on us heavily; it was extremely taxing and emotional. Because this project was not required to meet Plan Commission Standards we were forced to decide between staying in the home we loved, invested in, and had planned to grow old in, or to protect the safety of our children and the values we work to instill in them.

I cannot express how difficult this experience has been for my family. I am hopeful that as you review this appeal that you will see the need for a Plan Commission review. While it cannot change the experience that my family has had, I believe it can have a positive impact on the project and immediate residents. I also believe it is critical to set the standard for future Parks projects; no other neighborhood should have to go through this type of experience.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Cindy Watson and Dave Silbernagel
624 Jackson St.
Stoughton, WI 53589