From:	annewalker@homelandgarden.com
To:	Board of Public Works; Lynch, Thomas; Wolfe, James; Fries, Gregory; rcalloway@cityofmadison.com; Mayor
Cc:	court Personal
Subject:	Re: Today"s meeting--Madison"s Greenstreets Proposal
Date:	Thursday, November 3, 2022 9:16:53 AM

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Tom, thanks for encouraging me to comment on Madison's Greenstreets. And Jim, congratulations on your promotion to lead engineer. For those of you who don't know, Jim Wolfe and I have been discussing greening our isthmus neighborhoods since the planning stages for the Willy St reconstruction some years back.

As experienced city planners, it comes as no surprise that neighborhoods like Marquette are struggling to keep up with stormwater issues. In neighborhoods that have been built out like Marquette.....and Tenney, Atwood area, Vilas, etc., we have a common problem with stormwater and the urban heat island effect. We're not alone. After researching the issue, its apparent that floods are the #1 natural disaster city dwellers experience, and heat waves are the #1 killer, so it's essential for communities like ours to plan accordingly.

Why is it so important to consider isthmus neighborhoods?? Jojo O'Brian, city of Madison Engineer recently held a meeting for the East Isthmus and Yahara River Watershed. In the meeting, she described this part of the isthmus as being like a bathtub, with the Yahara River being the drain in the analogy. Flooding along the river has been common over the years. We're also pretty flat (topography) and a former wetland, which makes the efficient movement of stormwater a challenge. A lot of water is directed to the Yahara River. Water can back up and flooding can occur in areas not along the river, as Greg Fries is very aware. Also, one of the big challenges keeping up with stormwater in the Marquette neighborhood is lack of space to implement it. So I am ***intensely*** interested in how, going forward, Madison will prioritize the neighborhood having considerably less flooding problems as well as minimize the negative effects of urban heat. There's just so much space in the isthmus so good planning is essential.

I can appreciate that the isthmus is a transit corridor, for all sorts of modes of transportation. Many of them go past my front door every day. For those of you who know me, you know I am a document reader. From the ***Isthmus 2020 Committee Report: A Guidebook for a Model Isthmus,*** "The future vitality of urban areas with small residential lots and apartments lies in our ability to keep them attractive places to live or, in some cases, to make them attractive places to live. Frequently, we understand what our own neighborhood needs to remain a good place to live, yet we continue to see other neighborhoods as our traffic corridors. We lose sight of their primary importance as places to live." I would also add that for these same neighborhoods to be resilient, the focus on greening our neighborhoods, prioritizing elements such as bioswales and **canopy** trees **and vines** i.e. is paramount.

Over the years I have asked Jim Wolfe the same question on many a reconstruction. How many trees are there prior to the reconstruction? How many will there be after the reconstruction? How much greenspace is there prior to reconstruction and how much will be there after? The result has often been less trees and less green. That's a big problem

Respectfully,

Anne Walker

On 2 Nov 2022 at 20:30, Board of Public Works wrote:

Anne,

Your comment has been forwarded on to the Board and relevant staff members.

If you would like to attend tonight's meeting, you can register a position and/or to speak or you can request a link to watch the meeting. Items are taken in order except public hearings (items 5-7)

which are taken out of order to start at 5:30.

Let me know if you have any questions or additional comments.

Regards,

Lesley Parker
Pronouns: she/her/hers
City Engineering Division
210 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Room 115
Madison, WI 53703
(608) 264-9277

-----Original Message-----
From: annewalker@homelandgarden.com <annewalker@homelandgarden.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 2, 2022 3:01 PM
To: Board of Public Works <boardofpublicworks@cityofmadison.com>
Cc: court Personal <lindlcourtneyb@gmail.com>
Subject: Today's meeting--Madison's Greenstreets Proposal

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Dear Board of Public Works,

I am a long time volunteer in the Marquette neighborhood. Our neighborhood has been involved for many years in working with neighbors and the city on greening our streets. Volunteers, including myself have worked very hard to be a part of this process.
Unfortunately, though we have reached out to Tom Lynch and Renee Calloway for over a year now, we have not been a part of the effort.

Tom Lynch let us know that the first part of the Green Complete Streets focused on streets and BRT. The second part was to be an engagement process to green our streets i.e. increase the urban canopy and meaningful management of stormwater. We had hoped that this process, at it's conclusion, would resemble other cities that have been at the forefront of the conversation such as Portland Oregon.

According to JoJo O'Brian with city engineering, the Marquette neighborhood is approx 60% impervious. Engineer O' Brian also agreed that our neighborhood has flooding issues and that at present, solutions have not been proposed. Our neighborhood, like many isthmus neighborhoods, is struggling with the urban heat island effect, stormwater management issues, a lack of passive cooling (trees) and competition for the little space we do have.

While I appreciate the work the city is doing to improve our streets and modes of travel, it seems from what I have been able understand from the process, that the bulk of the effort is still centered around travel modes. We can not afford to lose out on this important opportunity to meaningfully address greening our streets as well as confront climate change. We need a robust response from our fair city.

From a personal perspective, the flood of 2018 really hit home. I live across from the Yahara River, a river which has flooded quite a few times in the past. 2018 was a 'great'
wake up call. The response to the flooding required the help of many, many volunteers as well as city staff and the National Guard to sandbag homes. We need help!

I implore you to respond to this moment in our city's planning to robustly implement a program similar to other city's leading the way. We need to create a resilient and sustainable response to GREENING our streets and our neighborhoods.

Respectfully,

Anne Walker