

From: [Ruth Ellickson](#)
To: [Plan Commission Comments](#)
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Subject: Voit Farm Plans/ City Planning Grant Possibilities
Date: Wednesday, June 14, 2023 2:16:45 PM

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Greetings,

I was present during the Zoom last evening regarding the Voit Farm Sale/Plans. I recently mentioned these ideas to Dina Nina, District 15 in a very fast meeting. I did mention I would attend the Zoom and also add a note to the City of Madison very soon. I also suggested she lead a group of citizens to Austin to study the Super C-op concept for Madison. (I am quite talented at telling folk how they might spend money!)

My Subject: Planning Grants

One:

The Pleasant Rowland Education Foundation has been aware for the past year of many discussions about planning/hoping for community involvement via an Agricultural Education Center/Community Center/Kitchen. I expressed keen interest in involving Pleasant's participation as her goals have been educational efforts and community involvement. I/we did follow the foundation staff throughout the life of "Save the Farm", but communications always included my personal 'not knowing' details of the sale/plans or possibilities.

I hope to encourage the City of Madison to reach out to the Pleasant Rowland Ed Foundation and lead a collaborative effort to include local resources as this property takes shape.

UW's Fraternity and Sorority with Agriculture and Farming would also be great resources, in my opinion.

Two:

I encourage the City of Madison to seek information and success stories from Austin, Texas, site of a number of Super Co-op houses; entire floors of students and well as two floors of adults/seniors/wheelchair accessible to live in small/smaller units, near transportation, community-cooperative living, and clearly economical. What an amazing fete that could be in the City of Madison could encourage that concept (near a large garden that could feed them all-cooperatively. Does Madison have the will to try this concept? (Sign me up!)

Three:

Could the City of Madison 'sponsor' a planning contest, perhaps a city-wide contest for clusters of K-12 students?

Challenge: Design two apartment/condo buildings, close/attached with a second floor walkway (similar to EPIC Co), allowing all persons with wunderneheels, canes, walkers, strollers and legs, the ability to walk up a 'slow ramp' (1st to 2nd floor) in either building to allow four-season walking (ice/snow-free year-round). The gradual ramp, perhaps the width of the building with South/sun exposure, could provide vast amounts of storage, underneath, for garden supplies, personal 'stuff', and supplies for an Ag/Educ/Community Kitchen, etc. There was also talk of a Sound Room, Radio Station, room for one Summit Credit Union advisor, music practice rooms, etc

As a former farm daughter now living on the East Side-and loving the Starkweather Creek and its wildlife, I am keenly interested in this exciting, new development. We speak of bringing

back the once famous East Side Fall Festival. As a music, people, and land-lover, I hope these plots become happy, affordable homes for many!

In conclusion, I do hope the City of Madison can help local neighbors and volunteers help Madison be an even better #1 place to live! I would like to discuss the concept of a Planning Grant to help move Madison forward.

Sincerely,
Ruth Ellickson
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