



July 31, 2023 Annie Stewart Fountain Community Meeting

Meeting recording: <https://media.cityofmadison.com/mediasite/Showcase/madison-city-channel/Presentation/96a56dfe4c354e3ca298aa32fc5a89551d/Channel/70ff129d5be046379a9cc866e2acfe595f>

- City of Madison Staff (Karin Wolf, Arts & Culture Administrator & Meri Rose Ekberg, Community and Cultural Resources Planner) share background information on the project, what research and reports have been completed, and the results of the CSOS report.
- Staff opened the floor to questions and suggestions for next steps.
- Lisa opposed moving the sculpture as she grew up near the work and believe something needs to remain on site
- Robert shared the only reason to visit the pocket park is the fountain, but that even if it is recreated the chances for vandalism are very high
- Lisa asked if it is removed, what will go there, and noted that vandalism is possible anywhere.
- Nadia shared that Ho-Chunk leaders have stated the proximity of the fountain to the mounds is problematic
- Janet shared she is uncomfortable leaving it in that proximity to the mounds, and noted that conservators feels the sculpture is valuable, so we should care for it and move it indoors, keep it safe, save as much \$ as possible, and not use public funds but raise private funds
- Robert seconded Janet's idea
- Lisa suggested to keep it at the zoo, or in the neighborhood in some capacity
- Jane Elder spoke of her experience as a mother who lost an adult child to suicide, and shared that she feels the fountain creates a space of contemplation, and perhaps having it in a gazebo near the entrance of the zoo, but not in it, in a private space, would be great. She would like to have a place like this to spend time in contemplation.
- Karin asked about public vs private funding. Perhaps it is a split, and the city could cover dismantling, transporting, and reinstalling, but other costs of restoration, creating a space, etc. could be privately raised.
- Jane suggested we not make a limiting decision at this time to allow for possibilities.
- Karin summarized that what she was hearing was that people are ok with moving it, conserving it, and relocating it to a place in the neighborhood (perhaps Vilas Park, perhaps elsewhere, indoor)
- Staff shared the Vilas Park Masterplan
- Jane stated that near the trees in the north of park could be a good contemplative space (between G-M on the plan)
- All agreed with the suggestions of removing, conserving the statue, and working towards fining a home.
- Lisa shared she is willing to help fundraise