From: Josh Olson
To: Finance Committee
Subject: 4/28/25 - Item 6
Date: Monday, April 28, 2025 7:44:05 AM

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Hi,

I am surprised by the amount quoted for the golf charity event for parking lots for the park.

$2000 a day seems like a small amount. How many spaces is the city expecting to lose for the 7 days of this event? For events like this is the past, I've seen parking spaces sold by the event organizer for $10-20 a spot. Is the charity foundation going to be selling access to these spaces?

And understanding this is a charity event run by Steve Stricker and AmFam, two very large figures in Madison and WI, I'm willing to give the benefit of the doubt to a charity event. But the charity itself could do more to be more transparent about their operations: https://www.charitynavigator.org/ein/460930746. 40% on Charity Navigator doesn't make me feel great when the city is providing something to that charity, I hope the charity is able to provide more transparency in the future.

Josh Olson

From: Sylvie Schuresko
To: Finance Committee; Martinez-Rutherford, Dina Nina
Subject: Oppose closing Cherokee Marsh North for a private golf tournament
Date: Monday, April 28, 2025 6:35:46 AM

You don't often get email from sylvie.schuresko@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

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Hello Finance Committee and Alder Martinez-Rutherford,
As a Madison resident and regular visitor to Cherokee Marsh North (as well as the city's other conservation parks), I strongly oppose closing the Cherokee Marsh North parking lots for a golf tournament.

1. Closing these parking lots makes the park extremely inaccessible. The Burning Wood Way entrance is in the least popular part of the park (it's nobody's destination area), and parking at that entrance and then walking to the main park or walking/biking to the main entrance requires park users to be able to handle a large amount of additional distance, making the park functionally closed to residents who have limited mobility. I have a mobility disability and am also recovering from foot surgery for a bone tumor, and while I'm now mostly recovered from the surgery, that additional distance would be basically impossible for me to handle. It would also be basically impossible for my dad, who's in his 70s and has knee problems, as well as for many other disabled residents who still like and deserve access to the outdoors. Just because this park isn't wheelchair accessible doesn't mean it isn't used by disabled residents - disability looks like a lot of different things, and we all deserve access to public resources regardless of whether we 'look' disabled or have a disabled parking permit
2. The increased traffic and noise will be disruptive to the animals the conservation park is meant to be protecting. Early summer is a sensitive time for animals that are raising their young. The fact that they want to COMPLETELY close the parking (instead of just sharing it with park users) makes me strongly suspect that they intend to overfill the parking lots or otherwise abuse the space, especially since there don't seem to be any usage limits other than sticking to the gravel areas
3. This is an excessively long closure compared to the length of the event
4. This parking is clearly an afterthought for the tournament organizers - if they really needed it, they would have been talking about it more than ~6 weeks before the tournament. Maybe they can shuttle in like the attendees, or organize valet parking if they're too 'important' to ride a bus

Thanks for your consideration,
-Sylvie Schuresko

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Hige sceal þe heardra, heorte þe cenre,
mod sceal þe mare, þe ure mægen lytlað.

From: James Eastman
To: Finance Committee; Glenn, Carmella; Matthews, Julia
Subject: Parking Lot and Driveway Use Agreement for Cherokee Marsh Conservation Park-North Unit (April 28, 2025 meeting)
Date: Monday, April 28, 2025 12:40:12 PM

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Re: Parking Lot and Driveway Use Agreement for Cherokee Marsh Conservation Park-North Unit (April 28, 2025 meeting)

Dear Finance Committee members,

I request that the Committee defer action on this topic until all the issues surrounding such a dramatic action are thoroughly considered and discussed.

This draft Agreement proposes an unprecedented commercial use of a City Conservation Park. In principle, I think this is a bad idea. It would set precedent for future commercial use of City Conservation Parks, which have a unique, non-commercial purpose as defined in City Law and in City Communications.

1. To agree to this request prematurely, or even at all, is a compromise without justification. It feels like a "sellout" to TPC and on a broader scale, to any such commercial interest. It does not seem to be in the public interest. As it is, the very presence of the Golf Tournament in question blocks any access to Cherokee Marsh conservation Park-North Unit for the entire week of the tournament, certainly to cars and possibly even to walkers and bicyclers.

2. Moreover, there has been no public explanation or discussion of the appropriateness or the adequacy of the proposed $14,000 use fee. Considering the potential damage that might be done by multiple heavy vehicles on unpaved roads, to say nothing of potential damage and destruction to the park grounds, this fee seems pitifully small. It does not reflect the probable costs required to bring the park back to its natural state at the end of the tournament. And there seems to have been no preparation for adequate monitoring of the park grounds during this use period. The Park staff is already overburdened and there seems to have

been no provision for alternative monitoring.

Finance Committee action is inappropriate at this time. The draft Agreement is premature at this point; the City has communicated very little to the public about the proposed Agreement, there have been no City sessions where the public can ask questions and offer guidance, and a public 'listening session' with the Event organizers still remains unscheduled.

The City and the public need time for communication about these issues and to work together to resolve them in a satisfactory manner.

Sincerely,

James Eastman

James T. Eastman, MD
34 Cherokee Circle, #102
Madison, WI 53704-8624
608-514-4481(cell)
608-298-7155 (home)
Email: jte319@gmail.com

From: Matthew Peterson
To: Finance Committee
Cc: Glenn, Carmella; Matthews, Julia
Subject: Parking Lot and Driveway Use Agreement for Cherokee Marsh Conservation Park-North Unit (April 28, 2025 meeting)
Date: Friday, April 25, 2025 2:35:41 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from matt@swonders.com. Learn why this is important

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Dear Finance Committee members,

I request that the Committee defer action on this topic.

This draft Agreement proposes an unprecedented commercial use of a City Conservation Park. As such, it will set precedent for future commercial use of City Conservation Parks, which have a unique, non-commercial purpose as defined in City Law and in City Communications.

It would be premature to take action at this point because of many unresolved issues with this draft Agreement and its implementation. Issues of particular relevance to the Committee are:

1. There has been no public explanation or discussion of the appropriateness or the adequacy of the proposed $14,000 use fee. It would be a disservice to the public interest to lock in that number at this point.

2. There has been no public explanation or discussion of the expenses required to implement the Agreement, particularly with respect to effectively monitoring and enforcing the Agreement terms and the Conservation Park Ordinance.

3. Finance Committee action is inappropriate at this time, given where we are in the process. The draft Agreement is immature at this point, the City has communicated very little to the public about the proposed Agreement, there have been no City sessions where the public can ask questions and offer guidance, and a public 'listening session' with the Event organizers still remains unscheduled.

The City and the public need time for communication about these issues and to work together to resolve them in a satisfactory manner.

Thank you,

Matthew Peterson
18 Cherokee Circle #103

From: susan McMurray
To: Finance Committee; Glenn, Carmella; Matthews, Julia
Subject: Proposed Use Agreement for Cherokee Marsh Conservation Park
Date: Friday, April 25, 2025 11:12:18 AM

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Re: Use Agreement for Cherokee Marsh Conservation Park-North Unit (April 28, 2025 Finance Committee meeting)

Dear Finance Committee members, Northside Alders Glenn and Matthews, and Mayor Rhodes-Conway,

I request that the Finance Committee **defer action on this decision regarding the use agreement for Cherokee Marsh Conservation Park -North Unit**. Here's why:

1. This draft Agreement proposes an unprecedented commercial use of a city conservation park**.** It will set precedent for future commercial use of city conservation parks, which have a unique, non-commercial purpose. This proposal needs to be thoroughly reviewed, because what happens with the city's decision in this case will set the standard for the future.

2. The city has not communicated with the affected neighbors or the public about the proposed Agreement and there have been no public meetings on either the upcoming event or the proposed use agreement not to mention the closure to the public of the Cherokee Marsh North Unit.

3. It is my understanding that a public 'listening session' with the event organizers still remains unscheduled.

4. There has been no public explanation or discussion of the appropriateness or the adequacy of the proposed $14,000 use fee that would be paid by event organizers for the use of the conservation park's parking lot. It would be a disservice to the public interest to lock in that number now.

5. There has been no public explanation or discussion of the expenses required to implement the Agreement, particularly with respect to monitoring and enforcing the agreement terms and the city conservation park rules.

As a Cherokee Marsh neighbor, a member of the Friends of Cherokee Marsh, a regular park visitor, and avid hiker, I have concerns about this proposed agreement as well as the hasty manner in which this agreement is moving forward.

Action by the Finance Committee prior to public input and thorough consideration of the precedent being made to allow a commercial entity to use a city conservation park, is

premature and unwise. Please defer action on the proposed Use Agreement for Cherokee Marsh Conservation Park - North Unit.

Thank you,

Susan McMurray
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Madison, WI 53704
Susanmcm17@gmail.com
608-535-2398