

From: Scott Thornton [<mailto:sbthornton@gmail.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, February 07, 2012 11:15 PM

To: Firchow, Kevin

Cc: Soglin, Paul; Rummel, Marsha; mnaboard@marquette-neighborhood.org; David Sparer

Subject: Allowing "Co-op friendly" Zoning in the Marquette Neighborhood

Kevin -

Please find the attached letter with our continued support for co-op friendly zoning in the Marquette neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Scott

Scott B. Thornton, President
Marquette Neighborhood Association



Board of Directors

Scott B. Thornton, President	Carl Durocher
Todd Jensen, Vice President	Corey Gresen
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February 7, 2012

Members of the Plan Commission

Re: Allowing "Co-op friendly" Zoning in the Marquette Neighborhood

Dear Plan Commission Members,

As the Zoning Code Rewrite comes back to the Plan Commission, the Marquette Neighborhood Association Board of Directors would like to reiterate its support for "co-op friendly" zoning text and mapping for our neighborhood.

The Marquette neighborhood is home to at least five housing cooperatives. Given the steady increase in housing prices, housing cooperatives offer an affordable and sustainable alternative to traditional renting or owning. Housing cooperatives are valuable assets that diversify the housing options in our neighborhood, and we would be receptive to new co-ops being established here.

When the zoning code text that passed at the Common Council last spring, we were disappointed that it essentially prohibited new co-operative housing in the majority of our neighborhood, the former R4A district between Ingersoll St. and the Yahara River. We consider this to be unnecessarily and overly restrictive given that we wouldn't anticipate more than one or two new co-operatives every four to five years, if we're lucky. MNA representatives and our Alder Marsha Rummel have since met with Planning and Zoning staff to craft a solution entailing supplemental regulations to the new TR-C3 district.

We acknowledge that zoning is complex. However, we look forward to the end result of this process giving us the flexibility to allow development of the diverse, affordable, sustainable types of housing that we desire in our neighborhood. For these reasons, we urge you to make that happen at this critical stage in the process.

Sincerely,

Scott B. Thornton, President
On behalf of the Board of Directors
Marquette Neighborhood Association

cc: MNA Board
Mayor Paul Soglin
Ald. Marsha Rummel
David Sparer

The Marquette Neighborhood Association is a public charity under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

www.marquette-neighborhood.org