

Hacker, Marsha

From: Lisa A Seidman [LSeidman@madisoncollege.edu]
Sent: Thursday, November 22, 2012 11:43 AM
To: Hacker, Marsha
Subject: E-Mail I Sent to All Alders Regarding Lights on Bike Path

Dear Ms. Hacker,

I sent this e-mail to all alders to support lighting the Southwest bike path.

I am a bicycle commuter who uses the path every day, throughout the year to commute from the west side to the Truax campus of Madison Area Technical College. I live about a block from the bike path near the area of most intense controversy. As a daily user of this bike path, I can tell you that it is dangerous in the dark. I have seen many "near misses" and myself have had to slam on the brakes to avoid dogs, squirrels, and rabbits. I have fallen once on mounded up snow that was difficult to see. Pedestrians and dogs seldom wear lights on the bike path and they are hard to see, even with a bike light. Dogs sometimes are not leashed and run in front of bikes. While lighting the path will not cure every danger, it is an obvious safety measure and might help prevent serious injuries.

The opposition to the lights appears to be coming from a well-organized and vocal minority of people who live adjacent to the path. While these are my neighbors and friends, in this particular issue they are acting without regard to the greater good of the community. All of us who live in a city must make personal accommodations that we do not like. I myself have a street light that shines in my bedroom window, but it would never occur to me to complain about it. None of the arguments against the lights make any sense, except the idea that it is sometimes pleasant to walk in the dark. This is true, but there are city parks that are more appropriately used for a pleasant night time stroll -- a transportation corridor is not the right place.

As city alders you will need to make a decision that pits the good of the majority against the desires of a vocal and well-organized minority. Good luck as you ponder what to do.

Lisa Seidman
641 Sheldon St.
233-1955