

From: Carl Landsness <weneedadream@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, February 14, 2020 3:34:00 PM
To: Stouder, Heather; Ledell Zellers; All Alders; McAuliffe, Daniel
Cc: David M. Pulkowski; Paul Noeldner
Subject: PERSONAL support for option C of the Oscar Mayer Plan (30 acre Hartmeyer Natural Area)

Dear Madison leaders and planners...

As I watched the Feb. 10 Planning Commission (48:48 of [this video](#)) re the Oscar SAP (and read the relevant documents), I was struck by the "oasis" nature of this last remaining wetland in a huge area that once was **all** wetland (much of N and E side). When I grew up in the Starkweather watershed (in the 50's), playing and retreating in nearby wetland pockets were a **lifeline** for me... giving me refuge and sanctuary to cope with crises in my home (Dad went blind when I was eight... leading to continual tensions and conflicts) and in my neighborhood or school (when bullied or teased). They probably were **key** in helping me succeed in school, music and other (e.g. valedictorian and solo clarinet at East High, Eagle Scout and various church and civic awards)... despite the other immense challenges.

When I returned to my Madison (and Starkweather) roots in 04 (after 30 years out west in hi-tech "yuppedom"), the Starkweather wetlands were again a lifeline for me. Helping FSC with clean-ups, restorations and family tours **did more to help me heal deep depression than any pill or professional**. As Madison grapples with social, violence and equity crises, I see such natural areas (especially wetlands) as critical in resolving these complex and elusive issues.

If any of **you** want to directly experience such magic (or alchemy)...
I love to give unique immersions into such hidden urban gems (by foot or canoe)...
or come to two adventures in Starkweather watershed **tomorrow** (Sat 10am): [here](#) and [here](#)

[Carl Landsness](#)



Madison's municipal philosopher: Carl Landsness brings the moderation

Chris Rickert | Wisconsin State Journal

"When I put these ears on ... all I can hear is the language of the heart."

Madison native, invasive, explorer, experimenter, peacemaker, troublemaker and reborn child (i.e. wonder, awe and glee)



*As we heal the watershed, the watershed heals us
As we heal ourselves, we heal the watershed*

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From: Carl Landsness <weneedadream@yahoo.com>

Sent: Friday, February 14, 2020 3:02:38 PM

To: Stouder, Heather; Ledell Zellers; McAuliffe, Daniel; All Alders; vscholtz44@gmail.com

Subject: Support for Oscar Mayer Plan Option C from Friends of Starkweather Creek



To Madison leaders and planners:

[Friends of Starkweather Creek](#) supports the City of Madison Oscar Mayer Special Area Plan Option C - Conservation and other opportunities to purchase and save all 30 acres of the Hartmeyer property historic wetland and surrounding upland ecosystem between Roth Street, the old Oscar Mayer plant, Commercial Avenue, North Sherman and adjacent railroad corridors as a nature park and shared community space.

Carl Landsness
David Pulkowski
Friends of Starkweather Co-Chairs

From: Becky Leidner <rwl1951@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, February 14, 2020 4:09:04 PM
To: Stouder, Heather; Ledell.Zellers@gmail.com; All Alders
Cc: Abbas, Syed
Subject: Oscar Mayer Development

Greetings,

As some of you may recall from previous emails, I am a 30-year resident of the Sherman neighborhood as well as a life-long Madisonian who is strongly opposed to several elements of the Oscar Mayer redevelopment proposal in its current form. My greatest concern is for the preservation of the entire 30-acre Hartmayer Natural Area and its protection from human encroachment of any kind. This tiny remnant of the Starkweather ecosystem is a thriving refuge for a wide variety of plant, animal, and insect species, precisely because we have left it alone. To destroy it in order to build yet more streets, apartments, and industry would be a tragedy. By now we should know better, and must do better. Please get the dollar signs out of your eyes and the happy sounds of yet more construction out of your ears, go down to the area, look at and listen to the sights and sounds of this wild, beautiful, special place, and then search your hearts.

I am also opposed to the addition of roundabouts at Aberg and Packers Avenues. My opposition is based on both a general distaste for roundabouts and a specific concern that they would create an even more continuous flow of traffic on Aberg Ave between Packers and N Sherman. It is already a challenge to enter or cross Aberg from Loftsgordon or Huxley at most times of day, even with stoplights at Packers and N Sherman, since Aberg is a heavily used connector street. The OM development would put yet more pressure on Huxley and Aberg and without stoplights at Packers it will be even more difficult for drivers to safely enter (or exit) the Aberg traffic flow. This situation may in turn create more traffic on Schlimgen Ave, already a racetrack, as drivers try to access N Sherman or Packers while avoiding Aberg.

Although I am not a resident of the Eken Park neighborhood, I support their wish to leave Coolidge Ave as a dead-end street. The proposal to open the street seems to me to be yet one more example of imposing poorly-thought-out and highly disruptive changes on neighbors who don't want or need them, just as with the myriad residents of the wildlife area whose homes are threatened, and Sherman residents who have no wish to further their difficulties with Aberg Ave traffic by dealing with unnecessary roundabouts.

Finally and overall, I feel the plan is vastly out of scale with the aesthetics of the North Side and out of touch with the "Northside vibe" that many of us know and love. It introduces a huge amount of dense housing, retail, traffic, and industry to our quiet, laid-back, working-class, ecologically special part of the city. The tiny remnant of wetland will quickly become degraded and useless as habitat. The noise and traffic will carry over far beyond the boundaries of the new development. We need more affordable single-family owner-occupied homes. We need safe neighborhoods and good schools. We need our precious wild areas respected, preserved and expanded. We do not need this dense, incongruous, and destructive development plopped down at the gateway to our neighborhood.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Leidner