

## Heiser-Ertel, Lauren

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**Subject:** FW: Zoom link

**From:** Wolf, Karin

**Sent:** Monday, February 22, 2021 5:44 PM

**To:** 'Zachary Moncrieff' <[REDACTED]>; Madison Arts <[madisonarts@cityofmadison.com](mailto:madisonarts@cityofmadison.com)>

**Subject:** RE: Zoom link

Hi Zachary,

The meeting on Tuesday has been cancelled as there is a Common Council meeting and neither Alder Evers or myself can make it.

If you are interested in staying up to date on the Annie Stewart Fountain work you may want to consider joining the neighborhood group: <https://groups.io/g/AnnieStewartFountain>

Thank you for your interest!

Karin

**From:** Zachary Moncrieff

**Sent:** Sunday, February 21, 2021 12:39 PM

**To:** Madison Arts

**Subject:** Zoom link

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hi,

Can I have the link for the Vilas Park zoom meeting this Tuesday? I am a Vilas neighborhood resident and I'm interested to hear how things are going.

Thanks!

Zachary

**From:** Rudie Flietner <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 17, 2020 8:51 AM  
**To:** Madison Arts <madisonarts@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** To Karen Wolf re: Annie Stewart Fountain

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Ms. Wolf,

I am interested in learning the status of any various plans (and the associated estimated costs related to each different option that may be under consideration) for repairing, restoring, or replacing the Annie Stewart Fountain. I have been asked to pursue this matter by several individuals who were born and raised in our city but left the state after completing their educations at the UW-Madison and who subsequently achieved significant financial success. I became acquainted with these individuals during the many years that I have been a director of development at the University of Wisconsin Foundation.

The nature of the cost projections I am hoping to learn would not need to include the amount that would be necessary from donations from private parties -- in addition to what local government would invest -- but simply be the total estimated cost for each of the different options that may be under review. However, if estimates of the potential public/private cost share for each option are available, that would be helpful. I have read of "price tags" in the range of \$350,000-\$400,000 to as much as \$850,000. However, having an idea of the current plans being reviewed and the total estimated costs for each would be very helpful.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this request.

Rudie Flietner  
[REDACTED]  
Madison WI 53714

From: Leslie Ann Howard <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Tuesday, December 08, 2020 5:53 PM  
To: Madison Arts <madisonarts@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: Annie C. Stewart Fountain

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

> Dear Ms. Wolf,  
>  
> I was so pleased to see the article in the WSJ yesterday about the future of the Annie C. Stewart Fountain.  
>  
> I've been drawn to the fountain over the years and have visited it numerous times. Earlier this year after a visit I googled the history and learned of all the attempts to address its problems.  
>  
> It's good to see the broad range of considerations for the park, the fountain, it's artistic and historical significance and meaning as well as the effigy mound in the park. I'm so glad the City hasn't given up!!  
>  
> I'd love to participate in any public meetings to learn more and to help if I can. I'm happy to commit a donation once the plan is defined if contributions are needed.  
>  
> Thanks so much for your leadership,  
> Sorry I missed the meeting today.  
>  
> All the best,  
> Leslie  
>  
> Leslie Ann Howard

From: clairecassidy <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Tuesday, December 8, 2020 1:53 PM  
To: Madison Arts <madisonarts@cityofmadison.com>  
Cc: Cassidy Claire <[REDACTED]>  
Subject: Fountain in Greenbush Madison

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Hello Folks,

I am writing from my home in Maryland. My brother sent me the article in the Wisconsin State Journal about the old fountain near Vilas Park.

I grew up on Vilas Avenue with my 3 brothers in the 1950s. We explored everywhere in the park, zoo, and nearby woods and water. The fountain was of special interest to my brother and his friends, who discovered you could go in under it and there you would find a memorial display to the young woman who died in 1905. I am pretty sure they did not damage, just were fascinated, and probably secretly smoked (they were about 10 years old). This display apparently consisted mainly of ribbons won riding horses.

I am writing because the article did not mention this underground memorial, and I wonder if anyone wishing to repair the memorial fountain knows about it. It might change the conversation, since the base can't just be lifted and moved. Under it is plumbing and more, and who knows in what condition.

I never went down there; I am repeating what my brother told me about his adventures.

I hope you find a way to save this fountain which always fascinated me, if only on the ground surface! It strikes me that taking it back to the Zoo as a display would be appropriate, since that was its first intention. But what to do with the underground memorial?

Good luck in figuring it all out!

Best wishes,

Claire M Cassidy  
Bethesda MD

**From:** Elaine Penpek <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 07, 2020 9:03 PM  
**To:** Madison Arts <madisonarts@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Vilas Fountain

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I am a Madison native. I went to school in Madison and loved to go to Vilas Park. I got married in Madison and raised a family in Midvale Heights. I worked at UW-Madison and retired in 2000. I currently live in Egg Harbor, Wi.

On the topic of the fountain, I would love to see it restored if possible, whether as a fountain or a statue. But I think it should be moved to a more visible place to avoid the vandalism. Possibly someplace in an open space in Vilas Park that would be patrolled regularly.

Thanks for your consideration.

Elaine Statz Penpek  
[REDACTED]

From: Pat Malcolm <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Monday, December 07, 2020 4:40 PM  
To: Madison Arts <madisonarts@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: Fountain at Vilas Park, effigy mounds

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I am very interested that the fountain be restored and moved to a location more central to the everyday life of the park. It was, after all, intended as an embellishment to the pedestrian entrance to the park. It would probably be a good idea to restore the basin using a combination of existing and modern materials that would withstand the weather better and allow for recreation of lost embellishments by casting molds of surviving ones. I agree that the central figure is probably best cleaned and preserved to be kept at an indoor location, with a reproduction created for the outdoor fountain. Perhaps at that point the water works can be investigated and recreated as well, and solar could power the pump. It would be ideal if an endowment could be raised to ensure ongoing maintenance and preservation of the fountain. Perhaps Attic Angel would be open to participation and a fountain unveiling to honor the original donor and her daughter.

Moving the fountain could honor the sanctity of remaining effigy mounds, and perhaps the Ho-Chunk Nation would be interested in collaborating on a project to honor the mounds as an integral part of the new zoo plan. It might be a good idea to include a native species exhibit at the zoo, with a tie-in to Native clan symbols and a map of historic locations of Wisconsin Native American groups.

Pat Malcolm (Ms.)  
Madison

Sent from my iPad

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Monday, December 07, 2020 2:08 PM  
To: Madison Arts <madisonarts@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: Annie Stewart fountain

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello,

I read with interest the recent article on the fountain, and plans for renovation or destruction.

I have been fascinated by the fountain since I was a teenager (many years ago) and first learned of it. The mounds have also been interesting since I learned of their existence more recently.

I would like to suggest that a new base be created off-site, a replica of the existing one, and that the original figures (Triton and the mermaid, and the fish) be renovated and placed on top of the new base. I believe this can be done in such a way so as not to destroy or damage the mounds in any way.

Finally, I would like to see a "Save the Fountain" campaign created to allow for citizens to donate (on-line, through the mail, etc.), maybe to the point that bricks with donors' names on them could surround the new base in much the same way as in other public spots.

I love this fountain; I want to see it saved. At different times of my life, I have stopped up there to get my bearings, enjoy the weather, or simply soak in the peace. I know it means a lot to many others as well, and it would be a horrible thing for Madison to lose another piece of its/our history.

Sincerely,  
Carolyn A. Hackler

From: Sandra Simpson <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Monday, December 07, 2020 1:40 PM  
To: Madison Arts <madisonarts@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: Fountain

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Why did the city neglect the fountain & statue to let it get so bad & now will cost an arm & leg to repair it? They did the same thing with the golf courses! Ridiculous ! Might as well get rid of it & put a statue of a Native American or African American in its place!

**From:** Dylan Mathieu <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 07, 2020 11:04 AM  
**To:** Madison Arts <madisonarts@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Annie Stewart Fountain - Community Input

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello,

I am writing to express an opinion about the future of the Annie Stewart fountain. I have no feelings about the fountain one way or the other, but I care deeply about Vilas park. The City has made it clear throughout the public meetings about Vilas park that many of the decisions that are being made are due to funding constraints, most notably the loss of at least one playground in the park. If the fountain preservation is done with private funds, then I have no opinion one way or the other, but I think that it would be a shameful use of public funds to preserve a fountain when the park is losing key amenities (playgrounds, one of the skating rinks, etc.) due to a lack of available funds. Above all else, Vilas park should be focused on the needs of children, and we should be directing our limited public funds towards amenities that will benefit children, of which hundreds of thousands of dollars of spending on a fountain certainly would not.

Thank you,

Dylan Mathieu

From: Kimberly McBride <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Monday, December 07, 2020 10:54 AM  
To: Madison Arts <madisonarts@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: Mermaid/triton fountain

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Madison Arts board,

As a resident of Madison on and off again for over 45 years I have always commented on how few historical statues or fountains we have in this city. I also was raised on the near west side and loved Vilas Zoo as a child. It is a Madison treasure.

I read with interest that Annie Stewart, a charter member of Attic Angel, seeded the project as a memorial to her daughter who suffered from depression and committed suicide. Could we approach the community with a fund raiser drawing attention to mental health? People are more inclined to give to something that touches their own life. Most of us have been in one way or another affected by mental health issues and it's often devastating results. My daughter's boyfriend developed severe depression and tragically ended his life. This is a fundraiser I would be glad to give to.

Perhaps moving the fountain to a more central zoo location would make sense also. Within the zoo it could be maintained to a much higher degree and more people would be able to view it.

I hope this historical and quite beautiful fountain and statue can be saved with help from the city, Vilas Zoo and community!

Sincerely, Kimberly McBride  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Jim Mand <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 07, 2020 10:23 AM  
**To:** Madison Arts <madisonarts@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Annie C. Stewart fountain in Vilas Park

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Clean, repair & restore the fountain as best as possible. Do not relocate.  
Promote it, and add informational signage nearby.

Sincerely,  
James F. Mand

[REDACTED]

**From:** Barbara Erlenborn <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 07, 2020 8:59 AM  
**To:** Madison Arts <madisonarts@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Anne Stewart Fountain

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello, thanks for having the discussion. I walked up to the fountain a few weeks ago and was “surprised” to find it, as it is in an ‘out-of-the-way’ spot. Thanks for the background information, as I was curious as to the fountain’s origin. I love fountains and suggest saving the main figure, and creating a new fountain. The question of keeping it in the same spot or moving it...is a good discussion to have. It is symbolic and historic to have the fountain near and highlighting the effigy mound, but I could also see the benefit of moving it to a more central spot of the park....perhaps near the playground equipment as the fountain is a tribute to a child. I would be willing to donate to creating a new fountain. Perhaps the new fountain could be one where children could soak their feet, or play in the water. Barbara Erlenborn

## Heiser-Ertel, Lauren

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**Subject:** FW: Questers and Summary of Annie C. Stewart  
**Attachments:** Questers & Annie C. Stewart Memorial.docx

**From:** Miriam Simmons <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 8, 2015 7:47 PM  
**To:** Wolf, Karin <[kwolf@cityofmadison.com](mailto:kwolf@cityofmadison.com)>  
**Subject:** Questers and Summary of Annie C. Stewart

Karin:

Please take a quick look at the summary attached. I plan to send it to the Quester membership this week.

Does the paragraph below capture our role?

Miriam

### Quester's Role

Ms. Wolf needs assistance in researching the fountain's history including that of the Stewart Family, the designer (Frederick C. Clasgens), and photos or articles which may have appeared in the newspapers of the day. She would be delighted to have our help.

P & R: Annie C. Stewart Memorial Fountain, Vilas Park, Madison

### History

In 1906, \$2,000 was provided by Mrs. Mary Stewart to the Park and Pleasure Drive Association for a public drinking fountain as a memorial to her daughter, Annie C. Stewart. In 1917, The Park and Pleasure Drive Association commissioned Frederick J. Clasgen's of Cincinnati, Ohio, a student of Rodin's, to design the fountain. Work began in 1911. WWI intervened and the fountain was completed in 1925. It is located at the intersection of Erin and Wingra Street, once the pedestrian entrance to the southeast end of Vilas Park Zoo.

Heggland (1991)

Clasgen's design featured a round concrete basin decorated with ocean motifs. On the tall concrete pedestal at the center was placed a group carved from marble representing a mermaid, a dolphin, and a triton (a youthful attendant of the gods of the sea). Two marble tritons adorned the sides of the basin and held conch shells from which drinking water flowed. (p. 17)

### Status

Vandals damaged the fountain in 1931 and 1943 and it fell into disuse. In 1994 the fountain was resurfaced with a type of concrete, however, it is no longer in working order.

Karin Wolf, Madison Arts Program Administrator, has suggested three options:

- 1) Letting the fountain decay
- 2) Full restoration (\$2 million +)
- 3) Replicating the fountain and showcasing the central elements inside a public space

### Quester's Role

Ms. Wolf is looking for help in researching the fountain's history including the Stewart Family, the designer (Frederick C. Clasgens), and photos or articles which may have appeared in the newspapers of the day. She would be delighted to have our help.

### More Information

Gajewski, M. Historic Madison, Inc., *Annie Stewart Fountain*. Retrieved January 8, 2015, <http://www.historicmadison.org/Madison's%20Past/connectingwithourpast/anniestewartfountain.html>

Heggland, T.F. (1991). *The Greenbush-Vilas Neighborhood: A walking tour*. Madison Landmarks Commission and the Birttingham-Vilas Neighborhood Association.

## Heiser-Ertel, Lauren

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**Subject:** FW: Annie C Stewart Memorial Fountain

**From:** Cheryl Crowell <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 22, 2011 12:00 PM  
**To:** Wolf, Karin <[kwolf@cityofmadison.com](mailto:kwolf@cityofmadison.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: Annie C Stewart Memorial Fountain

Thank you for getting back to me so quickly Karin. I did visit the site you mentioned, as well as a couple of others. Who was Annie C Stewart? I can find nothing on her internet-wise, so assume she was significant to Madison history, as Frederick J Clasgens would be to New Richmond Ohio. Would certainly not want to disrespect her, especially since it is her Memorial Fountain. However, when I read "fountain with no name in a park with no name" on one site, as an arts enthusiast I was saddened.

I also assumed the costs to refurbish would be extraordinary, not to mention the thought of trucking it to New Richmond Ohio. On the other hand, I have seen stranger things come together if someone wants it badly enough.

If you have any historical documentation on Frederick J Clasgens regarding how the fountain came about, I would love to have a copy of it.

Please keep me posted.

C

**Cheryl Crowell, MCP**  
Planning/Econ Development  
[REDACTED]

--- On Wed, 6/22/11, Wolf, Karin <[KWolf@cityofmadison.com](mailto:KWolf@cityofmadison.com)> wrote:

From: Wolf, Karin <[KWolf@cityofmadison.com](mailto:KWolf@cityofmadison.com)>  
Subject: RE: Annie C Stewart Memorial Fountain  
To: "Cheryl Crowell" <[REDACTED]>  
Date: Wednesday, June 22, 2011, 10:44 AM

Hi Cheryl,

Thanks for your interest in the Annie Stewart Fountain.

The Stewart Fountain is on our list of priority projects for conservation. Research on the best path to restoration has been underway for several years. The anticipated costs for restoration are quite high and will require a major effort from the community. Currently our conservation efforts are focused on restoring the Statue of Liberty replica in Warner Park.

A Community meeting on the Annie Stewart Fountain will likely be held in 2012. At that time, all ideas, including yours to relocate the sculpture (if you wish), will be put forth for discussion.

For more information about the City's public art conservation efforts please visit our website:

<http://www.cityofmadison.com/MAC/public/conservation.cfm>

Best,

Karin Wolf

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**From:** Cheryl Crowell [mailto: [REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 22, 2011 7:48 AM  
**To:** MadisonArts  
**Subject:** Annie C Stewart Memorial Fountain

To Whom It Concerns,

What can you tell me about the Stewart Fountain?

From what I can gather over the internet, it seems to be unused in in disrepair. Are there any plans to refurbish it?

Frederick J Clasgens was born and raised in New Richmond, Ohio east of Cincinnati (if it is indeed the same Frederick J). His family has played a significant part in the economic of New Richmond since 1865.

Is there any documentation as to why Frederick was commissioned to do this fountain? Where he actually sculpted the fountain, and how long the process took?

Additionally, while this is a floating wild-hair idea at this point (money, logistics, etc.) is there any chance at some time in the future that this fountain could be relocated to New Richmond, OH as a tribute to the Clasgen Family, if it is not going to be refurbished for any use in Madison, WI?

Thank you so much.

C

***Cheryl Crowell, MCP***

Planning/Econ Development



## Heiser-Ertel, Lauren

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**Subject:** FW: Welcome to AnnieStewartFountain@groups.io

**From:** [AnnieStewartFountain@groups.io](mailto:AnnieStewartFountain@groups.io) Group Moderators <[AnnieStewartFountain+owner@groups.io](mailto:AnnieStewartFountain+owner@groups.io)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, November 25, 2020 10:54 AM

**To:** Wolf, Karin <[kwolf@cityofmadison.com](mailto:kwolf@cityofmadison.com)>

**Subject:** Welcome to [AnnieStewartFountain@groups.io](mailto:AnnieStewartFountain@groups.io)

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello,

Welcome to the [AnnieStewartFountain@groups.io](mailto:AnnieStewartFountain@groups.io) group at Groups.io, a free, easy-to-use email group service. Please take a moment to review this message.

You can visit your group, start reading messages and posting them here:

<https://groups.io/g/AnnieStewartFountain>

The email address for this group is: [AnnieStewartFountain@groups.io](mailto:AnnieStewartFountain@groups.io). Because our system allows for participants to post via web or email, you can use this email to post new topics.

But most importantly, please add this email address to your safe sender list in your email client's contacts.

A forum for those who appreciate the cultural and historical significance of the [Annie C. Stewart Fountain](#) (Vilas Park, Madison, Wisconsin) and want to help determine its future. We gather and disseminate background information, and promote effective and inclusive decision-making aimed at protecting/preserving this artwork in a way that recognizes its unique heritage.

You can set your subscription settings here: <https://groups.io/g/AnnieStewartFountain/editsub>. You can opt to receive: all messages in individual emails, collections of messages in a digest, a daily summary, or only special notices.

If you do not wish to belong to this group, you may unsubscribe by sending an email to:

[AnnieStewartFountain+unsubscribe@groups.io](mailto:AnnieStewartFountain+unsubscribe@groups.io)

To see and modify all of your groups, go to <https://groups.io>

Regards,

The [AnnieStewartFountain@groups.io](mailto:AnnieStewartFountain@groups.io) Moderator