

From: Ryan Hartkopf <ryanhartkopf@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 3, 2021 12:03 AM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Opposition to item 22

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

Esteemed alders,

I would like to voice my opposition to item 22 on the agenda, which would kick our neighbors out of Reindahl Park.

I understand that Mayor Rhodes-Conway has allocated \$8,650,000 of the funds that Madison will receive from the American Rescue Plan to relieving the plight of our homeless neighbors. I request that until such time as better (not worse) accommodations are available, that we do not further complicate their lives by uprooting them.

I would also like to propose that Alder Halverson be given a bus pass and a tent and sent to live at the intersection of I-39 and the beltline so he may gain a more complete understanding of the difficulty of living in such a remote area and accessing food, showers, and other essential services. I understand the concern of homeowners near Reindahl Park, however Alder Halverson has inherited the responsibility to care for all constituents living in his district, including those without a roof over their heads.

Thank you,

Ryan

From: S Morgan <shanisemmorgan79@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 3, 2021 11:22 AM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Common Council Agenda 22

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Dear Alderman,

My name is Shanise Morgan, I'm a resident in Aurora Co but I was raised in Madison WI and moved away about 3 years ago. I remember when Madison was the safe haven for domestic abuse victims and the homeless back in the early 90's, where the community had a heart to help the people who were in need. There were motel vouchers and a cab was sent to pick the children up to send those children to schools faithfully everyday. I was very involved in the community and working with the homeless is my passion. I was homeless in Madison and worked extremely hard to get my family off the streets. I'm very much opposed to removing the family from Reindahl Park because if you have never been homeless before this is quite traumatic for a lot of families who reside there with children. People seem to have no problem seeing the problem at hand and refuse to do anything productive about it likemore shelters/ more housing / more funding to fund these areas, what about motels that caters specifically to the homeless that has staff that actually knows how to deal with the homelessnes populations so that we as a community can move forward to end homelessness instead of moving the homeless to another part of Madison where there is less access. Unfortunately, if you vote on this to move these families it could be detrimental to the well-being of people's lives. Not having accessible water and electricity and food access is beyond me. How do we curve down homelessness by leaving individuals to die in the middle of nowhere. That's what you will be voting on. The beacon is a safe haven for the homeless and not being able to access this resource could be a matter of life or death for some, especially the ones that depend on the food and showers that The Beacon provides.

Thank you so much for your time in reading this letter
Sincerely,
Shanise Morgan

From: Philippa Bergmann <pbergmann@artfulhome.com>

Sent: Saturday, July 3, 2021 6:23 PM

To: Rhodes-Conway, Satya V. <SRhodes-Conway@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>

Cc: leona.bergmann@gmail.com; trillian.bergmann@gmail.com; FJ Bergmann <demiurge@fibtz.com>; fwb@innoveering.com

Subject: OPPOSE #22 Do not end camp at Reindahl

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

As a homeowner in District 17 and a regular runner at Reindahl Park, I OPPOSE resolution #22. How many times do we have to say, "Housing first"? Anything else is inhumane and not prioritizing correctly.

Alders' main objective when it comes to Reindahl camp should be to work with Madison property-owners to build adequate housing and support for our homeless population immediately. I implore you to make this your main focus—I'm sick to death of hearing you talk about kicking homeless out of the parks or "relocating" them to ever-more-remote plots of land that will only make them less safe, less successful, and more vulnerable!!! The suggestion by Halverson to move the homeless population to the services desert of 4218 Dairy Drive is inhumane and ,especially in light of resistance to utilizing the old Savers store for housing, unconscionable.

Over the fall and winter 2020, I volunteered with Occupy Madison to build the Wiggies tiny house community. What a success!!!! What a way to bring the community together! Over 700 volunteers (and all occupants) worked hard to build those houses and a lovely, caring, sustainable community for these folks! You should be working to find housing solutions like these for these folks and drop your embarrassing crusade to simply kick people out of the park. Seriously, embarrassing, supporters of Res. #22, y'all should be ashamed of yourselves.

What is the deal with Hope Village (and more like it)? It should be obvious by this point, with the success of the tiny village in Eken Park and at good ol' Wiggies, that this and more communities like it need to be put into place and all those housed before closing camping at Reindahl should even be considered. Please advocate for more integrated tiny house villages throughout the city; we're all for it!

Please spend your energy advocating for housing, not talking about ending camping. As a frequent user of the park, I also see no problem with people camping there. Splash pad is open, playground is open, soccer is back, voting went well without a hitch, cookouts are on! There's 91 acres, plenty of room for all. In fact, it's being used more now than I ever saw before the pandemic. It's a great park and while I'm ashamed that our representatives have been unable, for a year and more, to find ways to house our struggling neighbors, I feel proud that they are safer and able to legally camp in our park at the moment—rather than forced into worse situations.

Thank you,

Philippa Bergmann
27 Anniversary Court
District 17

From: jhirsch@chorus.net <jhirsch@chorus.net>
Sent: Sunday, July 4, 2021 10:29 AM
To: Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: #22 Reindahl Park

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Mayor and Alders:

I ask you to **SUPPORT:**

Item # 22 66239 Directing City Staff to Enforce Ordinances Within Reindahl Park

It's time for the Common Council to follow through on it's commitment to the citizens of Madison and ensure their ability to enjoy all of our parks. Park users should not be restricted by the **Inappropriate Behavior** of others as outlined in the the Parks Behavior

Policy. <https://www.cityofmadison.com/parks/about/documents/25798BehaviorPolicy.pdf>

We need to enforce the ordinances and Park policies at Reindahl Park.

We have just passed the July 4th holiday weekend. There are only 59 days of summer left until the Labor Day holiday. Let's return Reindahl Park to it's intended purpose and provide for the lawful use and enjoyment of this outdoor space.

Thank you.

Janet Hirsch
Madison Resident

From: Edward Kuharski <ekuharski@aol.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 4, 2021 4:14 PM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Reindahl Park Resolution

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

Members of the Madison Common Council:

It has come to my attention that 17th District Ald. Halverson has introduced a resolution under suspension of the rules for consideration at this coming Tuesday's Common Council meeting to forcibly remove about 40 Madisonians from their dwellings in Reindahl Park.

Many thoughts come to mind regarding this rash and hostile proposal. A choice few:

- 1.) The irregular process of introducing this resolution disrespects the ordinary process of doing business at the Common Council. I am hopeful that the Council will not countenance this divergence from its established policies and procedures, and will decline to accept this out-of-order business on Tuesday's agenda.
- 2.) It is a unilateral proposal that is both redundant and in conflict with the current process of the Council developing a proposal for creating a legal and appropriate site or sites for residents who need a place to camp.
- 3.) This author of this resolution made no effort to consult the affected population to ascertain their needs as a means of developing valid criteria for candidate sites. They also clearly ignore the relevant criteria cited by opponents, including the resolution's author, in opposing the Zeier Road site for the Men's Shelter project.
- 4.) The resolution cites provisions of the Madison General Ordinances and the Zoning Ordinance to support the already well known fact that Madison Parks, like any other public place in Madison, are not legal places to be. Ald. Halverson missed the provisions under the Trespassing section of the MGO that criminalizes mere possession of sleeping paraphernalia on the property of another, including public spaces, without the permission of the Owner.
- 5.) The resolution proposes to relocate campers to a city-owned property at 3218 Dairy Drive on the extreme SE side of Madison. In addition to being extremely remote and lacking in any utilities or facilities to support human habitation, the parcel is zoned IL, Light Industrial. A review of the chart for Permitted and Conditional uses for this zone category confirms that indeed no type of residential use is allowed whatsoever in this Industrial zoned district. So implementing such a move would place the City in violation of its own Zoning Ordinance, and Matt Tucker would be compelled to threaten onerous fines for each day of violation, similar to that visited on Mr. Kuo Vang when he hosted the Occupy Madison group on vacant land he owned on Portage Avenue. Perhaps the City Attorney could weigh in on just whom would be held accountable for the violations and fines.

Clearly, a solution lies in addressing the arbitrary prohibition of camping in the City, particularly within designated portions of a City Park. I will point out that there is precedent for administrative relief even if legislative change is not forthcoming.

- Case #1: Mayor Soglin's proclamation and order establishing the Walkerville encampment on the Capitol Square in spring of 2011. It was established for two weeks. (As part of the order, one quadrant of the Square was reserved for the homeless campers who normally inhabited various spots around the Square.)

- Case #2: Mayor Soglin's proclamation and order permitting the Occupy Madison group to camp on the 800 block of East Washington Ave. This order was in place for 6 months, until it became politically inconvenient for the Mayor to let it continue. In fairness, I doubt that the Mayor expected the group to hunker down and stay the entire winter.

An alternative to changing the ordinances concerning parks would be to legally separate, for instance, the present corner of Reindahl Park from the other 90 or so acres. With some suitable improvements it could become the first of the city's legal campgrounds.

The problems with the present situation are readily solved. But not by digging in our heels and refusing to approach the situation in a direct, constructive and respectful manner. And certainly not by rushing into an alleged "solution" that would actually be a very expensive way to make matters much worse. Winter is coming. We need to focus on how we are going serve these people and the likely hundreds more who will face eviction on August 1st.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Regards, Ed

**Edward Kuharski, Architect, AIA, LEED AP
GREEN DESIGN STUDIO**

405 Sidney Street
Madison, WI 53703
608/469-5963 mobile
ekuharski@aol.com

"The best way to predict the future is to help create it."

From: Sharon Maas <sharon.j.maas@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, July 4, 2021 4:30 PM

To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Re: Reindahl Park encampment I support agenda 22 Sharon J. Maas 4102 Dwight Dr. Madison, Wisconsin 53704

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

I have lived in this area 34 years and never seen the rise in crime, it has become unsafe to even walk through Reindahl Park . The garbage thrown every where is a health hazard. I have encountered rats ,humane feces,drunken people you name it Reindahl Park has it and I state this not in a good way .You have enabled this sort of life style to go on too long . It is now out of hand. This park was never intended for this way of life. Restore it back to a Park not a garbage dump. All those who want to just sweep this under the rug and hope it goes away may I suggest you adopt a few of the encampment people and let them live in your back yard see how long you like this idea.

Sharon Maas

On July 4, 2021, at 3:53 PM, Sharon Maas <sharon.j.maas@gmail.com> wrote:

Sharon Maas

From: Judy D <j_dabbs@hotmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, July 4, 2021 5:09 PM

To: Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; Rhodes-Conway, Satya V. <SRhodes-Conway@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Okeefe, James <JOKeefe@cityofmadison.com>; ekneep@cityofmadison.com

Cc: William Dabbs <wdabbs@sbcglobal.net>

Subject: 7/06/2021 common council meeting. Agenda item 22

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

Reindahl park is 2 blocks from the home we have occupied and paid taxes on for 45 years. For 2 years it has been used as a campground/tent city. We pay taxes to the city but are not able to use the park and the facilities because it does not feel safe. The new splash pad is not useable because of the discomfort of taxpayers to use this, even if it were open.

The crime in the area has increased in those 2 years. Park residents disrespect the property that the city has allowed the "temporary residents" to occupy this results in trash strewn all across the neighborhood. We feel this part of town has shared our neighborhood for a gracious amount of time. Perhaps you would agree to sharing YOUR neighborhood.

We are very disappointed with the lack of care/concern for the taxpaying residents of the neighborhood. It's time for a change.

William A and Judy A Dabbs
4222 Dwight Drive
Madison WI

From: Delores Robillard <dottierobey@icloud.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 4, 2021 7:20 PM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Support Alder Halverson's resolution on Reindahl

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

Madison City Alders:

I am contacting you in support of Alderman Halverson's resolution to end the encampment at Reindahl Park. We residents of District 17 have been patient for this to be addressed but it is already the Fourth of July holiday and our park has still not been returned to us to use for its intended purposes. Families and individuals are unable to full utilize the park due to feeling unsafe and certainly it would be unwise to send children unaccompanied to this setting. This is a district of diverse peoples and many families are financially challenged. This park is an important adjunct for outings and entertainment for these families.

Mayor Rhodes-Conway and Brenda Konkel say the resolution is premature and irresponsible. This is disingenuous as this has been ongoing for many months. Alder Halverson's many attempts to work towards a solution that will aid the homeless and yet address his constituents desires have been disregarded.

As the pandemic has eased residents were expecting to be able to gather and enjoy Reindahl Park. This is not possible and apparently the only way to get the City of Madison to address this issue "now" is for Alder Halverson and his constituents to inform you that we are TIRED OF WAITING!

Delores Robillard
4510 Village Lane
Madison, WI 53704

From: Charles Litweiler <litweilerc@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 4, 2021 8:15 PM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Supporting Removal of Campers from Reindahl Park-Agenda Item 22

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A critic of removal has characterized it as 'irresponsible.' That might be the case if a replacement site were not being offered. The residents of District 17 should not have to wait until the City settles on another-perhaps-permanent site. Everyone who has moved into the Park since May 8 when it was due to be closed...lived someplace else during the preceding months. They did not have a 'home' but they had shelter.

The Park is a very convenient location for all purposes. Easy access by any means of transportation. Shade trees that also serve as windbreaks. Stores for all essentials, including thrift shops. No reason to leave; the City and other alders did not offer or encourage camping elsewhere. Not everyone staying in the park seems to be broke. Van owners, regardless of the condition of their vans, only fit in a very 'loose' definition of 'homeless.'

So, why not leave well enough alone and let anyone who wants to camp in the Park? We've had 3 murders-all of fellow campers-but can Park users count on that in the future? The Park Shelter is closed-no picnics or celebrations there. Can't use the toilets in the Shelter. We have heard of harassment of some non-campers. theft of produce from Community gardeners. This is not a Boy Scout camp, generally very messy. More than the usual number of needles in the parking lots. Who knows how many potential Park users have gone elsewhere rather than chance dealing with any of this?

It is not heartless to require the Park campers to move to another dedicated City site. The only caveat may be the possibility that some campers might resist violently. I am not joking about this. One tent has painted on the side: 'Pig Dies.' In general you should just wait refusers out and cut off City services. The possibility of violent resistance should not be an excuse for letting the campers stay...and their numbers continue to grow.

Chuck Litweiler
District 17

From: Tom Neuser <tom.neuser@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 4, 2021 8:53 PM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Support Alder Halverson's resolution on Reindahl

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

City Alders:

I add my voice to those calling for closing the encampment at Reindahl Park, returning the park to its intended use, and assisting those experiencing homelessness in ways that actually remedy that condition.

Tom Neuser
4625 Anniversary Lane
Madison, WI 53704

From: Reindahl Community Gardens <reindahlcommunitygardens@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, July 4, 2021 9:01 PM

To: Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; Knepp, Eric <EKnepp@cityofmadison.com>; Okeefe, James <JOkeefe@cityofmadison.com>; Rhodes-Conway, Satya V. <SRhodes-Conway@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>

Cc: Halverson, Gary <district17@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: In support of resolution (Directing City Staff to Enforce Ordinances Within Reindahl Park)

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

Alderspersons:

I encourage everyone of you to support Alderperson Halverson's resolution Directing City Staff to Enforce Ordinances Within Reindahl Park (agenda item 22, July 06 meeting).

We all realize that homeless and the need for shelter is a problem for a substantial subset of Madison's population. However, maintaining the homeless encampment in Reindahl Park is not the solution.

It has been almost two months (May 9th) since the TPE expired and to apparently avoid any bad PR the City adopted a laissez-faire policy instead of enforcing the removal of the 5 or so homeless individuals who were left in the park at that time. As a result of this policy the encampment has seen every increasing number of individuals and tent sites. Just today (4 July) some individuals have set up a tent just outside the tennis courts.

Having the encampment in the park is affecting its use by residents. Reindahl Park serves one of the most diverse (ethnically and economically challenged) populations in Madison. It also hosts one of Madison's largest Community Gardens, just to the west of the homeless encampment. Our gardeners reflect the social-economic and racial diversity of the area.

Having the encampment within a few 100 feet of the Community Garden is certainly having a negative effect on our gardeners. There is a negative financial effect since people from the encampment routinely come to the garden to use the water, both for consumption and personal hygiene (showering and doing their laundry and the Garden pays for every gallon used).

Beside the economic cost there is a psychological cost. Many of our gardeners (especially senior and female gardeners) have concerns about being out in the garden by themselves with a large group of people camping nearby. Certainly the 3 people that have died around the encampment since last fall have not done anything to calm Gardeners' concerns. What used to be a pleasant experience, peacefully working in your plot, and listening to the birds, has turned into a tension filled experience where you are constantly looking over your shoulder and you are listening to see if anyone is approaching your plot, and if so, you are hoping it is a fellow gardener and not an encounter of the worse kind.

We have two gardeners abruptly give up their plots after having negative interactions with individuals from the encampment. I have heard from many of our senior gardeners that their

children and grandchildren are worried about them being at the garden by themselves and have urged them to stop gardening until the situation improves.

There was also a marked increase in thefts from people's plots last year once the encampment was moved from the Park shelter area to the area immediately east of the Garden. We have always had some issues with theft during the growing season, but it was much worse last year. I expect that once crops begin to mature in people's plots, thefts will be on the rise again this growing season.

While homelessness is certainly a problem, food security is also a huge problem for a vast number of Madison's residents. Reindahl Community Garden, along with other community gardens, go a long way helping many families' meet their annual food needs. We at Reindahl are especially aware of this and last year and again this year waived plot fees for families that were unable to pay due to the economic downturn caused by COVID-19. However, if gardeners are afraid to come to the garden or if all their produce is stolen it will certainly negatively affect their food supply.

I feel Reindahl Park is being held hostage by a small group of activists who are not necessarily interested in helping to find a solution to the problem but are more interested in advancing their own social agenda.

Therefore, I strongly encourage you to support this resolution. It is time that the situation is resolved and all of us can again safely enjoy Reindahl Park for the rest of the year.

Mark Wetter
Reindahl Community Garden Coordinator
reindahlcommunitygardens@gmail.com

-

Reindahl Community Gardens
PO Box 14407
Madison WI 53708-0407
608-301-5674

From: Merikay Payne <merikay_merikay@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, July 5, 2021 8:38 AM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Agenda item 22

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

Hello,

We support agenda item 22.

Thank you.

Henry and Merikay Payne
810 Redland Dr.
Madison

From: marsha@legacyhouseimports.com <marsha@legacyhouseimports.com>

Sent: Monday, July 5, 2021 10:57 AM

To: Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Okeefe, James <JOKeefe@cityofmadison.com>; Knepp, Eric <EKnepp@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Homeless in the city of Madison, particularly at Reindahl Park

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

To all concerned about the plight of the homeless in Madison:

I understand there is to be a vote about ending the homeless encampment at Reindahl Park. I fully support alderman Halverson's proposal. Unfortunately, there have been incidences where the community gardeners and other users of the park have been intimidated and there have been illegal behaviors by some of the homeless as well. I also understand the police have been instructed not to enforce normal rule of law in the park.

I have sent all of you links to articles about the successful use of tiny homes for the homeless in the cities of Austin, Texas (often cited as a similar city to Madison); Salt Lake City; Aurora, Colorado; and Los Angeles. I continue to be in support of this option for Madison's homeless. I do also support the use of the former Karmenta nursing home as well. I have suggested that McPike Park/Central Park is an ideal location for tiny houses due to being close to downtown services. It seems many of the homeless also prefer to be closer to downtown. The tiny house developments in the other cities also include services and amenities. I believe that using large buildings in a "cattle barn" approach, particularly if it is only for overnight, is not the answer. Just like all of us, homeless people need the dignity of some privacy and a little spot they can call their own. Some homeless people don't feel safe in close quarters and for some it triggers their PTSD.

I also understand that the city has received a large federal grant. Please apply some of this money to proper management of the homeless situation in Madison.

Thank you for considering my suggestions.

Marsha Flannery, owner
Legacy House Imports
4221 Lien Road
Madison 53704

From: Lacey Klimeck <lacey.rose147@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 5, 2021 11:26 AM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Special Needs child wants to use Reindahl Park safely

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Dear Alders,

My name is Lacey. My son & I fight chronic illness. He has more medical complexities, but all I would like to share is that he has a trach and is on a ventilator 24/7, as well as being oxygen-dependent.

My family and I were forced to move to Madison due to our child constantly being air lifted and ambulated to the children's hospital. We were forced to leave our safe neighborhood, but were gifted to find a house in a cute neighborhood on the east side. My husband and I looked forward to walking to Reindahl Park with our child, and loved that our child had a bike path and field to play in across our home. Since our son already was used to the "stay-at home" life being immunocompromised, we looked forward to at least being able to give him a childhood at the park near his home.

When the pandemic hit, we empathized with the community whom are homeless. We never felt fear in the beginning and thought they were just like us, needing love and a place to call home.

Today, we still believe they are human & also need love and a place to call home. Unfortunately, we no longer feel safe with the homeless encampment near our house. My husband, son, and I were walking by the community gardens last summer and a random stranger told us someone had been killed the night before in the encampment. We couldn't walk home fast enough as we had no idea about this, nor did we know if it was even safe to be there. Over Christmas Day we watched the crime scene response team process a scene by our sons favorite hill he likes to climb, knowing something happened and feeling yet even more unsafe. Our child loves running on the bike path and we have watched it become heavily traveled by vehicles. Not all of them drive sensible! We have watched people biking having to move over for the vehicles. I have put in a complaint already once to the PD and nothing has changed about the bike path being misused as a street.

Let me tell you why I don't feel safe with these situations happening. Due to our child being on a ventilator and oxygen, IF danger happens to our house, we cannot just up and leave. We have many medical supplies that must be gathered in order to leave to keep our child alive & breathing. If we're walking on the bike path and our son pops himself off his ventilator and runs away (because what kid wouldn't enjoy freedom) and a vehicle flies down the bike path, we then have to figure out how to stop him from getting hit with 15 pounds of medical equipment on our backs. We choose not to take walks by Reindahl park anymore due to fear of being confronted, so we drive to Sun Prairie and enjoy safer places, which I'm sure is not the intent of our city.

Thank you for your willingness to read this email. Attached I have added photos of vehicles driving on the bike path, and have added a photo of our child enjoying the bike path pre-encampment times. Please keep families safe whom want to use the bike path and park for what it's truly meant for.

Sincerely,
Lacey Klimeck





From: Louis Loui <outlook_D541CB089E87A75C@outlook.com>
Sent: Monday, July 5, 2021 2:30 PM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Reindahl Park

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

Dear Leaders,

Please give us our park back! We are no longer able to use it, because it is no longer safe. This is not a place for the homeless!!!!

From: Marisa R <marisacross17@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 5, 2021 3:13 PM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Please OPPOSE Agenda Item 22!

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

Dear City of Madison Alders,

My name is Marisa Ross and I am emailing as a concerned citizen of Madison. Today, I want to talk with you about an issue that is very important to me that you have the ability to do something about— houselessness in the city.

Specifically, I am emailing to ask that you oppose **agenda item #22** proposed by Alder Gary Halverson of District 17 because it is an attack on our houseless community members. Alder Halverson aims to shut down the encampment in Reindahl Park and push our houseless community members outside of the city and, specifically, outside of his district. Some residents of Reindahl Park fear that the city is trying to eliminate its “homelessness problem” not by finding suitable housing and resources for houseless folks but by simply isolating them on the outskirts of the city.

I live near the former encampment at McPike Park, and I was saddened to see how the city decided to evict all residents during the pandemic with little help or resources for the residents. There is a limited amount of suitable housing available for unhoused residents of Madison, and McPike offered proximity to services and running water / restrooms that are basic necessities for unhoused individuals. I fear that evicting the residents of Reindahl Park will cause a similar displacement to what happened at McPike.

I am disgusted with the lack of support the city has provided our community members, and I am appalled by the city’s continuous attempts to shut down the Reindahl Park encampment without any actual solutions. A resolution to halt the eviction of the Reindahl Park encampment was broadly supported by the public back in May and was referred to the appropriate committees for discussion, yet Alder Halverson, with the backing of Council President Abbas, is undermining both the consensus of the Common Council and of the public with this fraudulent resolution.

The city of Madison has repeatedly broken its promises to our houseless community members. We will not stand for it and ask that you join us in voicing your opposition to this resolution. Let this also be a friendly reminder that the people of Madison do keep tabs on which alders represent the wishes of their constituents and, if you are hoping for re-election in the coming term, it would be wise to do your job correctly and represent our voices.

Thank you for your time.

Marisa C. Ross, MPA

From: Lily Greisch <lilliana.greisch@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, July 5, 2021 3:19 PM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Reconsider Resolution 66239

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

Good afternoon,

Please vote against Resolution 66239. It feels as though this resolution further penalizes those who are less fortunate. This is a step in the wrong direction for our city. We stand must stand for progression—including those who are currently homeless.

Thank you for your time,

Lily Greisch

From: jjswisc@gmail.com <jjswisc@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 5, 2021 3:27 PM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: [All Alders] Legislative File No. 66239 Support

Recipient: All Alders

Name: Joe Smith
Address: 4871 CANTER CIR, Madison, WI 53718
Email: jjswisc@gmail.com

Would you like us to contact you? Yes, by email

Message:

Hello,

I support enforcing the ordinances in place.

Thank you,

Joe

From: wreichel@charter.net <wreichel@charter.net>

Sent: Monday, July 5, 2021 3:33 PM

To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Please End the Encampment for the Safety of All

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

Dear Mayor and Alders,

First-hand accounts from neighbors, community gardeners and park goers at Reindahl Park are disturbing---open-air drug dealing, assaults, prostitution, stealing, fighting and intimidation of women and children to name a few.

The encampment is not a safe nor a healthy place for our most vulnerable to reside and it's unfair for the diverse community that resides in that area to not be able to safely use their park---especially since they've been waiting so long throughout the pandemic to participate in community events, play, and use the splash pad.

Please support item #22 to enforce city ordinances in Reindahl Park and end the encampment immediately for the safety of all.

Thank you.

Wendy Reichel

From: Julia Banchik <julia.banchik@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 5, 2021 4:12 PM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Voting against Resolution 66239

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

Madison Allders,

My name is Julia Banchik and I am emailing you to express my concern as a member of the Madison community and urge you to vote against Resolution 66239. Criminalizing homelessness causes immense harm, and relocating houseless people to the intersection of I-39 and the Beltline, where it is unsafe and at a distance from local resources, will put an already vulnerable group of people at even greater risk. It is your obligation to uplift and support all members of your community, and that includes those who are homeless.

Julia Banchik

From: Kristina Tobin <kacitobin@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 5, 2021 4:29 PM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: On Reindahl

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

Dear alders,

I'm a homeless outreach worker and case manager with Tellurian's PATH program; I know most - if not all - of the faces of campers at Reindahl.

I am ashamed today, and on this weekend supposedly celebrating American freedom, to live in a city that would so quickly seek to criminalize and displace Houseless people with no proper plan, guidance or humane reasoning. I am shocked.

Just a few weeks ago during outreach case conferencing the city reached to us, those in homeless services, for comment on a permanent solution (or even possibly, a staffed encampment) to better the lives of those living at Reindahl.

Please, alders, I urge you to vote NO and listen to the concerns of Houseless people and those who work with them during agenda item #22.

I attend Reindahl meetings every Thursday at 7pm. I can ensure you that residents have been struggling after the last threat of eviction. The threat scattered older residents of the camp, who often relied on others to meet their basic needs, dispersed necessary supplies, tools and structures to ensure camp safety and sustainability, and created an atmosphere of violence and distrust between the residents, the police, and other city forces.

Reindahl has become a center of care; it is a space where outreach providers like myself can keep people alive, meet to discuss case updates on housing, and connect those to services. While it is hard, and infuriating at times, to have such a sense concentration of poverty, DISPLACING those who are homeless does NOT solve homelessness but invisibilizes it. Displacing those experiencing homelessness further away from resources will only make it harder to house them.

Sometimes it feels futile to write these emails and appeal to public officials, so for effects sake I can't help but write that sentence again:

Displacing those experiencing homelessness further away from resources will only make it harder to house them. I say this as someone who's 9-5 is housing the unhoused.

Do not displace those camping at Reindahl.

Thank you,
Kaci Tobin

From: Di Francis <iamwolflvr@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, July 5, 2021 4:34 PM

To: Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Okeefe, James <JOKeefe@cityofmadison.com>; Knepp, Eric <EKnepp@cityofmadison.com>

Cc: Halverson, Gary <district17@cityofmadison.com>; skpastor@sbcglobal.net; Reindahl Community Gardens <reindahlcommunitygardens@gmail.com>

Subject: Request for Support of Alder Halverson's Order for Reindahl Park

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

Dear Mayor Rhodes-Conway, Alders, Mr. O'keefe and Mr. Knepp:

I am writing this as a resident of District 17 and a Reindahl Community Gardener. Like everyone, I have experienced the effects of this financially crippling past year of COVID. Furloughs at work have cut my income, while all other costs of living continue to rise. Gardening has helped to supplement the food budget both for myself and my family. Gardening also used to bring me a peace of mind I could always find in the open air, with my hands in the dirt. Those peaceful, gardening days are not the same anymore. Now, I have to be hyper aware. I have to watch over my shoulders to see if some disheveled man is going to stumble out of the woods to defecate in front of someone or worse, demand that someone fill up their water jugs with the water we pay for. You have to be listening to hear if people getting loud arguing, screaming and swearing at the camp are actually escalating to fighting.

Which brings me to a fact that makes me sick to my stomach. I am aware of how this affects others. I have seen the fear of some of the elderly women - now afraid to be in the garden alone. I also see women from other cultures who do not understand these behaviors, literally running from the area in terror, with children in tow, when one afternoon fighting started over in the camp. Why in the name of heaven do they have to be subjected to this nonsense, when all they're trying to do is feed their families?! It's outrageous and shameful for any Administration that would tolerate these behaviors inflicted on human beings by any other human beings. My grandchildren are no longer allowed to come to my garden. For good reason. It breaks my heart, but such is the way of our city.

I strongly implore each of you, without any further delay or political ploys, to support Alder Halverson's order for Reindahl Park. This **deplorable** situation has already gone on far too long. If something is not done to release the pressure caused by those misbehaving, this will take the choice of a peaceful resolution out of your hands before a peaceful solution can be found.

To quote Gandhi, "Fear is the enemy. We think it is hate; but, it is fear." Fear is turning to anger and anger ignites. Already some of the older men in the gardens who ignored certain behaviors out of fear, are starting to confront those who are upsetting

other gardeners. There have been multiple instances of clashes at Reindahl Park between those in the gardens and the campers. On top of that, we are aware the police have been told by the "mayor's office" not to enter the camp. No wonder the campers are comfortable screaming at people that 'this is our park'. Then tell me, what do we do when confronted by men who choose to defecate in front of us or who take our hoses to bath themselves or worse they stick the hoses down their pants to wash their genitals right in front of women and children, after using the ground around our tool storage shed as a public toilet? What are WE supposed to do with those kinds of behaviors when they are occurring over and over again?

As voting, tax paying citizens we have tried to follow the proper process to register our dissatisfaction with the present situation. I am told I must endure, while the powers-that-be work out a solution, which will **more than likely take months**. The gardening season only lasts a couple months. In the meantime, I see visitors to the park, as well as fellow gardeners, subjected to antisocial actions and behaviors none of us were raised with. Every city ordinance is being broken, health and safety violations continue to be ignored. When we attempt to stop these things and/or we ask for help in correcting them, we are accused of "criminalizing the homeless" and having "nimby" attitudes. Quaint.

Why is a camp of homeless souls, many with substance abuse and mental health problems, placed in one of the highest used parks in the city, in the first place? That was certainly horrible planning on someone's part. Then to make it worse, when a deadline was delivered to that group, and the camp was almost deserted, the few remaining souls were allowed to refuse to leave. Instead of dealing with those few, the Administration made another bad decision to let them stay. Now, every day, there are even more people there than before.

Please support Alder Halverson's order for Reindahl Park and help all of us, the homeless, the community, and the gardeners before a tragedy occurs in an area already at capacity with conflict. Alder Halverson may be new, inexperienced and younger, but he has my complete support, is wise beyond his years, and he has compassionate answers. There may be things missing from the proposal, however, he has good, solid, suggestions. Let's get to work on how we can improve and fix things instead of ignoring this any longer.

Sincerely,

Dianne Francis
18 Fallview Court Apt D
Madison WI 53704-7718
608/669-8663
iamwolflvr@gmail.com

From: Gracie Regala <gregala721@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 5, 2021 5:06 PM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: I need your help!!!

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

Hello Alders!

My name is Gracie Regala and I am emailing as a concerned citizen of Madison. Today, I want to talk with you about an issue that is very important to me that you have the ability to do something about— houselessness in the city.

Specifically, I am emailing to ask that you oppose **agenda item #22** proposed by Alder Gary Halverson of District 17 because it is an attack on our houseless community members. Alder Halverson aims to shut down the encampment in Reindahl Park and push our houseless community members outside of the city and, specifically, outside of his district. Some residents of Reindahl Park fear that the city is trying to eliminate its “homelessness problem” not by finding suitable housing and resources for houseless folks but by simply isolating them on the outskirts of the city.

Eviction at any point in time is a life altering event that can really cause someone's life to turn for the worst and especially right now, as we move out of the pandemic, we cannot stand for our neighbors being treated this way. There are houseless folks in our city that have found solace in the Reindahl Park encampment and until we can find suitable housing and resources for these members of our community we cannot just kick them to the curb. Housing is a human right and we need to show that in Madison we believe that.

I am disgusted with the lack of support the city has provided our community members, and I am appalled by the city's continuous attempts to shut down the Reindahl Park encampment without any actual solutions. A resolution to halt the eviction of the Reindahl Park encampment was broadly supported by the public back in May and was referred to the appropriate committees for discussion, yet Alder Halverson, with the backing of Council President Abbas, is undermining both the consensus of the Common Council and of the public with this fraudulent resolution.

The city's relationship with its houseless folks is already holding on by a thread after continued times of uncertainty brought on by anti-houseless actions and this "surprise" resolution will do nothing but tamper it more. Please oppose this action and take care of the people in your community.

The city of Madison, especially Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway, has repeatedly broken its promises to our houseless community members. We will not stand for it and ask that you join us in voicing your opposition to this resolution. Let this also be a friendly reminder that the people of Madison do keep tabs on which alders represent the wishes of their constituents and, if you are

hoping for re-election in the coming term, it would be wise to do your job correctly and represent our voices.

Thank you for your time.

Gracie Regala

From: Jane Lilith <bbjanekaren@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 5, 2021 5:39 PM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Opposition to Resolution 66239

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

Hello,

I am writing to you today as I vehemently oppose the removal of the people currently residing in Reindahl Park. The encampment at Reindahl does not cause harm to anyone. The suggestion put forward by Gary Halverson does not take into consideration the needs of the people currently residing in Reindahl. It criminalizes homelessness and the alternative location is unfit for the needs of these people. Madison should be a place for all people to thrive regardless of whether or not they are houseless.

I am also severely disappointed in how last minute this resolution was put forward.

Please take my stance into consideration. I trust you all to make the just and compassionate choice.

Your constituent,
Jane (Jeremy) Hoesly

From: jclausius@charter.net <jclausius@charter.net>

Sent: Monday, July 5, 2021 6:11 PM

To: Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Okeefe, James <JOKeefe@cityofmadison.com>; Knepp, Eric <EKnepp@cityofmadison.com>

Cc: 'thealy@charter.net' <thealy@charter.net>; 'totsteam@charter.net' <totsteam@charter.net>; 'skpastor@sbcglobal.net' <skpastor@sbcglobal.net>; Dean Mosiman <dmosiman@madison.com>

Subject: Agenda Item 22 Directing City Staff to Enforce Ordinances Within Reindahl Park

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

Dear City officials,

I am writing in support of the above agenda item. Please adopt Item 66239 at the July 6, 2021 CC Meeting for immediate, progressive enforcement of all ordinances in violation.

Until February 2021, Reindahl Park was a textbook example of diversity on Madison's east side. Regardless of race, all residents and families felt safe gathering there play, picnic or just enjoy a beautiful Madison park.

We all were proud that one of the jewels of the Madison Park System was right in our backyard! Besides the existing splash park, plans are to site a desperately needed branch library **AKA The Imagination Center** and a fully accessible playground for underserved residents.

However currently none of us, including many people of color can safely use the park or allow our children to go there. Please vote Tuesday to enforce all ordinances prohibiting the illegal activities now happening at Reindahl Park. The illegal campers need to be moved to a non-park location. Alder Halverson's proposal of using the vacant city property at 3218 Dairy Drive is an excellent suggestion.

I was a member of the Parks Commission and advocate for Madison Parks my entire time on the Madison City Council. **Please give Reindahl Park back to our east side!**

Sincerely,

Joe Clausius
18 Clarendon Court
Madison, WI 53704

From: Charlotte Francoeur <charlotte.francoeur12@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, July 5, 2021 6:23 PM

To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Oppose agenda item #22

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

Hello!

My name is Charlotte Francoeur and I am emailing as a concerned citizen of Madison. Today, I want to talk with you about an issue that is important to me that you have the ability to do something about – homelessness in the city.

Specifically, I am emailing to ask that you oppose agenda item #22 proposed by Alder Gary Halverson of District 17 because it is an attack on our houseless community members. Alder Halverson aims to shut down the encampment in Reindahl Park and push our houseless community members outside of the city. Some residents of Reindahl Park fear that the city is trying to eliminate its homelessness problem, not by finding suitable housing and resources for houseless folks, but by simply isolating them on the outskirts of the city.

Thank you,
Charlotte Francoeur
1301 Chandler St
Madison WI 53715

From: Dorothy <dborchardt1@charter.net>
Sent: Monday, July 5, 2021 6:36 PM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Cc: Knepp, Eric <EKnepp@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Agenda item # 22

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

Dear Alders,

I'm contacting you in support of Alder Halverson's resolution directing staff to enforce the ordinances against camping or residing in City's parks.

Referring legislation that has been discussed for several months will not solve the problem. It will be putting off a decision that should have been made months ago, instead of encouraging and enabling the encampment to continue to grow.

What would be your vote if this was in your district and your constituents were concerned and upset due to the inaction by the city?

Put your time and energy in to providing housing for those that want housing they can afford. Keep looking for locations in your district that could provide locations for Tiny Homes.

Thanks for your time and attention,

Dorothy Borchardt
1717 Elka Lane
Madison, WI 53704

From: Mary Mussey <mmmussey@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 5, 2021 6:43 PM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Reindahl Park encampment

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

Hello,

I am not a Madison resident (I grew up on the east side and relocated in the 90s and returned 3 years ago) and am a gardener in the park. I would like you to know about my experiences in the garden this summer.

1. while walking to the shed I had to redirect my intentions because a man was defecating in the grass in front of me. As I waited for him to finish he took the garden's hose and shoved it in his pants to clean himself.
2. when the arguments start, which is common, I have to endure "mother fucker" and other words which upset my 90 year old mother who loves to help me garden
- 3 the other repercussion from the arguments is the fear it sets in the gardeners that bring their young children - many flee out of fear the the verbal argument will result in physical violence
- 4 I have to drive by piles and piles of trash - I am not referring to the huge trash bins provided by the city - the trash piles are all over the gravel road and grassy areas
5. I have to witness the signs made by the residents - Fuck the police, No pictures allowed, the middle finger
6. smoke from overnight bonfires linger in the morning - the fire pits are large
7. they drive their vehicles around the park and garden and park very close to the garden plots
8. they drive in the garden lot and spin around kicking up gravel when gardeners come and go
9. several camp residents clean up the area when they know press or alders are visiting - you might not be seeing the "real" encampment

This is a city park. Plain and simple - this encampment is illegal. It is frightening. My rights to garden safely are being denied. I paid for my plot and I volunteer to maintain the garden's common areas. Last year my entire plot's produce was donated to a food bank.

I am proud to know this group of gardeners. We are a diverse group and proud of how we work our plots. It is my hope that this encampment be removed but I fear it won't happen until a gardener, biker, tennis player, etc. gets seriously injured by a resident of the encampment. I will be listening in on the meeting. I hope the plan to close this illegal camping in a CITY PARK moves forward. Do your job and do the right thing. Obey the law - plain and simple.

Mary Mussey
309-826-9891

From: Sophie Wolbert <wolbertsophie@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 5, 2021 7:45 PM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Support residents of Reindahl Park

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

Hello alders! My name is Sophie Wolbert and I am emailing you as a concerned citizen of Madison. Today, I want to talk with you about an issue that is very important to me, and one that you have the ability to do something about— houselessness in the city.

Specifically, I am emailing to ask that you oppose **agenda item #22** proposed by Alder Gary Halverson of District 17 because it is an attack on our houseless community members. Alder Halverson aims to shut down the encampment in Reindahl Park and push our houseless community members outside of the city and, specifically, outside of his district. Some residents of Reindahl Park fear that the city is trying to eliminate its “homelessness problem” not by finding suitable housing and resources for houseless folks but by simply isolating them on the outskirts of the city.

I am disgusted with the lack of support the city has provided our community members, and I am appalled by the city’s continuous attempts to shut down the Reindahl Park encampment without any actual solutions. A resolution to halt the eviction of the Reindahl Park encampment was broadly supported by the public back in May and was referred to the appropriate committees for discussion, yet Alder Halverson, with the backing of Council President Abbas, is undermining both the consensus of the Common Council and of the public with this fraudulent resolution.

The city of Madison, especially Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway, has repeatedly broken its promises to our houseless community members. We will not stand for it and ask that you join us in voicing your opposition to this resolution. Let this also be a friendly reminder that the people of Madison do keep tabs on which alders represent the wishes of their constituents and, if you are hoping for re-election in the coming term, it would be wise to do your job correctly and represent our voices.

Thank you for your time.

Sophie Wolbert
she/her/hers
wolbertsophie@gmail.com

From: Isabelle Bartholomew <isabelle.bartholomew6@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 5, 2021 8:30 PM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Item 22

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

Hi,

I encourage you all to vote against item 22. This is due to the last minute nature of this, and ultimately the consequences!!

Sincerely,

Isabelle Bartholomew

From: Hallie Imperl <halliswut@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 5, 2021 8:35 PM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Oppose Agenda Item #22

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

Hello! My name is Hal Imperl and I live in district 6. Today, I want to talk with you about an issue that is very important to me that you have the ability to do something about—houselessness in the city.

Specifically, I am calling to ask that you oppose **agenda item #22** proposed by Alder Gary Halverson of District 17 because it is an attack on our houseless community members. Alder Halverson aims to shut down the encampment in Reindahl Park and push our houseless community members outside of the city and, specifically, outside of his district. Some residents of Reindahl Park fear that the city is trying to eliminate its “homelessness problem” not by finding suitable housing and resources for houseless folks but by simply isolating them on the outskirts of the city.

I am disgusted with the lack of support the city has provided our community members, and I am appalled by the city’s continuous attempts to shut down the Reindahl Park encampment without any actual solutions. A resolution to halt the eviction of the Reindahl Park encampment was broadly supported by the public back in May and referred to the appropriate committees for discussion, yet Alder Halverson, with the backing of Council President Abbas, is undermining both the consensus of the Common Council and of the public with this fraudulent resolution.

The city of Madison, especially Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway, has repeatedly broken its promises to our houseless community members. We will not stand for it and ask that you join us in voicing your opposition to this resolution. Let this also be a friendly reminder that the people of Madison do keep tabs on which alders represent the wishes of their constituents and, if you are hoping for re-election in the coming term, it would be wise to do your job correctly and represent our voices.

Thank you for your time.

From: rrasmur11@gmail.com <rasmur11@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 5, 2021 9:09 PM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: [All Alders] Encampment at Reindahl park

Recipient: All Alders

Name: Russell Rasmussen
Address: 1014 BULTMAN RD, MADISON, WI 53704-8933
Email: rrasmur11@gmail.com

Would you like us to contact you? Yes, by email

Message:

I am contacting you to support Gary Halverson's resolution to end the encampment at Reindahl park. Reindahl park was never intended or designed for habitation by camping. I am concerned for the health and safety of those camping at the park and those using the park. Crime, such as drug use and theft have been reported by both of these groups, and some of the campers have reportedly harassed and intimidated people who wish to use the park as intended day recreation, including children. Supporters of continuing to allow habitation in the park don't seem to consider the loss to families who can no longer use the park safely.

I urge you to support Alder Halverson's resolution to end the encampment at Reindahl park.

Thank you,
Russ Rasmussen

From: Caitlin Benedetto <caitlin.benedetto.90@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 5, 2021 11:14 PM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Vote against resolution to remove people from Reindahl Park

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

Dear Alders,

As a Madison resident, I am asking you to vote against the resolution to relocate houseless people currently living in Reindahl Park (item 22 of tomorrow's council meeting). This resolution was rushed, and it would negatively impact the houseless people currently living in Reindahl Park. The new location that has been proposed is unsuitable. If people were to be relocated as the resolution proposes, it would make it much more difficult to access the resources they need to survive (grocery stores, transportation, shade, and safety). Please do not contribute to the criminalization of homelessness and the marginalization of houseless people. Vote against the resolution.

Thank you,
Caitlin Benedetto
525 E Mifflin St #5
Madison, WI 53703

From: Jim Mand <jimmand@charter.net>
Sent: Monday, July 5, 2021 11:17 PM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Agenda Item #22

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

I am in favor of closing down the illegal homeless encampment at Reindahl Park.
The city should not have let this situation get so out of hand, after evicting most of the squatters in May.

Drove by there yesterday. Looks awful.
We stopped going to the Wendy's restaurant there because of the homeless hanging around the parking lot.
Besides all the problems with homeless people harassing customers in the parking lot at HyVee. Stopped going there too.

Jim Mand
49 Golf Course Rd – Unit C
Madison WI 53704
jimmand@charter.net

From: Debra Nelson <debranelson2605@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, July 5, 2021 11:40 PM

To: Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>;
eknepp@cityofmadisonn.com

Subject: Reindahl Park

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

I have lived on Portage Road near Reindahl Park for twenty years. I regularly walk thru the park to pick up trash and it is a dump.

On May 9th when the homeless were to be out there were 9 tents. There are now close to 30 tents, a camper, two RV's that have been in the parking lot for over 3 months, and now there are cars parking in the lot with people sleeping in them. There are also 5 cars or trucks who drive on the bike path and into the grass in the park to get to their campsites.

You run into people who are so drugged or drunk they can barely stand. These people have no incentive to work because the homeless advocates bring them food, water, and firewood. They have a port-a potty, a sink and now a shower. Or they can panhandle.

None of my neighbors will use the park anymore and I don't see the children down there that use to use the playground. If I had kids I won't let them use the park and worry they might step on a needle.

I suggest you consider building your men's homeless shelter at Callahan's Pub on Bartillion. It is on a bus route, near Kwik Trip, Walgreens, Hyvee, Aldi's and Dollar Store and near three businesses that regularly hire - McDonalds, Bell Labs & Fedex, And across the street from MATC so your clients can get their GED or degree.

Otherwise I suggest you move the homeless to a park near the mayor, Julia Bennett or Brenda Konkel. I am sure something would be done if the homeless lived in a park near them.

Debra Nelson
2605 Portage Road
Madison WI 53704

From: Susan Pastor <skpastor@uwalumni.com>

Sent: Tuesday, July 6, 2021 12:03 AM

To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>

Cc: Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; Knepp, Eric <EKnepp@cityofmadison.com>; Okeefe, James <JOKeefe@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Supporting Item 22 as a step toward thoroughly compassionate policy

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

Dear Alders,

When the city made homeless a protected class in 2015, I was involved in advocating for that policy, and cheered when Common Council overrode former Mayor Soglin's veto. It is still important six years later that discrimination based on the condition of being unhoused is prohibited. The unregulated campground at Reindahl Park is an opportunity for the city and Common Council to clarify, based on your actions, some aspects of what that protected class means, and what the city's policy is, in relation to maintaining residences outdoors. It is also an opportunity to clarify what you believe are the rights of Madison residents with regard to housing, including in tents.

Please:

- **Support suspending the rules and voting yes on Item 22, Alder Halverson's resolution.**
- **Communicate the deadline in the near future** to enforce the city ordinance prohibiting camping in the park.
- **Move to clarify your policy as to what outdoor conditions the city will provide and what the responsibilities of residents will be.** (This would be decriminalizing homelessness within law/policy.) The policy implication of permitting the Reindahl campground to continue is that you believe everyone has a right to housing in a public park, but no responsibilities in exercising that right.
- I believe you have city staff with experience negotiating governance in refugee/squatter settlements internationally. Could you draw on that experience with our internally displaced population? Could they advise you? Whether or not this is what you mean, the campground in the public park, which continues to grow, is creating the impression that a compassionate approach means the absence of regulations.

I appreciate the intention to act from compassion for the raw realities of living unhoused. **Maintaining the option for people to live in the conditions in the park seems a very thin standard of compassion to me.** I hope in the next city budget cycle, you prioritize meeting the needs of the city's most vulnerable populations, not only with housing but in regard to food, water, health and safety. (You might also consider the impact of gentrification created by revenue-generating development projects you approve.)

Please consider that compassion for the raw reality of being unhoused does not make it necessary to belittle, dismiss, or assume selfishness on the part of, residents who feel Reindahl Park should not be an unregulated campground. You might not like the ways that people are expressing frustration with the situation in our major park, but District 17 is shouldering the responsibility for the results of years of inadequate attention to homelessness.

Acknowledge this. Acknowledge that it is happening in a part of the city that is already a resource desert with fewer city amenities than other parts of town. I believe we all do have responsibilities to/for each other. Think about how the responsibility could be shouldered more equitably. It would not make matters worse to apply some compassionate consideration for people whose use of the park has been affected. When people feel they are being dismissed, that only creates more resentment and animosity. There are good reasons people in this area feel the city couldn't care less about them, except as a source of revenue. Please beware of what Chimimanda Adichie calls "The Danger of a Single Story" in her TED talk.

There are multiple experiences within the experience of being unhoused. The media has done a good job of representing this. The experiences of housed residents who use the park and have used it in the past are also multiple. The media has not done a good job of representing this. The community gardeners, for example, are subsistence farmers, low-income families with children, Hmong elders, senior citizens/retirees who are white, U.S. military veterans. District 17 has the highest level of housing insecure homeowners in the city, as identified by the library's study that designated Reindahl as the next library site.

Because I am the person saying this, a 62-year-old white woman with a house, does not make it less true, -- even if everyone who represents the diversity of those affected does not come and talk at a meeting. I spent the last year staring at computer screens with little white squares representing the students in my classes and I am still unnerved -- as anyone at the last Transportation Policy Board can attest - by the alienating conditions of participating in a "meeting" where I can't see the other participants, and I lose my chance if the tech fails.

I am grateful for all of your compassionate hearts. Your compassion will not be undermined by acknowledging the evolving impact of the situation and the multiple, legitimate concerns of city residents, though it is tough work to reconcile conflicting needs and to be fair in the process. No doubt it will be a challenge to take a step toward a more concrete and consistent policy but this is the path toward a more equitable (for everyone) and more substantively compassionate approach to homelessness. Thank you for reading this.

Sincerely,

Sue Pastor
2502 Green Ridge Dr

From: Tia Williams <tiacisum@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 6, 2021 5:00 AM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Item 22-Reindahl Park

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

Hello,

I am a Madison city resident who lives near the Reindahl Park encampment. I would like to voice my opposition to item 22 as I support the rights of those unhoused to remain in Reindahl Park and disagree with the notion of "moving them" to a less desirable location. Unhoused people deserve to live freely.

Thank you for your consideration on this issue,

Tia Williams

From: Erin Lemley <afuzzybird@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, July 6, 2021 7:44 AM

To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: I OPPOSE moving people from Reindahl Park

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

Dear Madison Alders and Mayor,

I'm writing because I am concerned to hear that we are once again talking about evicting houseless people from Reindahl park. These are our Madisonian neighbors, and moving them out of sight, out of mind does not erase the problem of the lack of housing in our city. It also sets our neighbors in need further away from transportation, social services, and jobs.

The city's attempts to close down this camp without providing real, meaningful solutions is appalling. We must do better for our neighbors in need. We call ourselves a progressive city yet seem set against spending money on things that would actually help people become housed. For instance, all the money the city is considering spending on body-worn cameras for police officers could be much better spent providing services to our struggling community members.

I am also upset that this resolution is coming as a surprise and through suspension of normal rules. This is a blatant attempt to prevent people like me from having time to write and comment. It is wrong to treat actual human beings as just a problem to sweep under the rug, and most certainly wrong to do it as quickly as possible without giving citizens time to voice their concerns and support for our houseless community members.

I ask that you OPPOSE agenda item #22 at tonight's meeting (and while we're at it, I think the body-worn camera committee's report has many glaring oversights), and allow people to continue camping at Reindahl Park until a real solution for helping our neighbors is in place.

Sincerely,
Erin Lemley
1703 Rowland Ave #1
Madison, WI 53704

From: Dick & Catherine Murray <greenbush4@aol.com>

Sent: Tuesday, July 6, 2021 7:45 AM

To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: #22

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

I am getting sick of kissing the feet of the homeless. Get them out of the Park. Don't you realize that every time you give in more homeless outside of the city come to Madison. . I pay taxes and want to enjoy the parks

Richard Murray
1421 Wyldewood Dr
Madison

From: linda faris <bounceonce50@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 6, 2021 8:19 AM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Reindahl Park

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

I am against the resolution that removes the homeless population fro Reindahl Park.
Please do not create more obstacles and hardships on people who have nothing.
It is inhumane to criminalize and deny people any excess to the bare necessities that are needed to sustain life.

Linda Faris in district 16.

From: Joan D. <joandowns911@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 6, 2021 9:13 AM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: I am writing

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

to oppose the suspension of the rules regarding a discussion of a resolution regarding the homeless in Reindahl Park, and also to oppose the resolution itself.

The rule suspension is contrary to the very concept of citizen democracy and to the ideal of full transparency. It, and the proposed resolution, are insults to those of us who are trying to trust the city alders' words and actions. The council has previously committed to look for viable housing alternatives while allowing the Reindahl Park encampment to remain as it is. While I understand the concerns of those living near the park, I firmly believe that priority should be given to the council keeping its word and to the needs of those in the encampment.

Please do not allow this critical matter to go forward under the rule suspension and also please oppose the resolution itself.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Joan Downs
765 West Washington Ave.
Madison, WI 53715-1486

From: Nowakowski Kandace L <KNowakowski@uwhealth.org>
Sent: Tuesday, July 6, 2021 9:19 AM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Support Alder Halverson's resolution on Reindahl

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

Hello,

I am writing to support Alder Halverson's request to move the encampment out of Reindahl park. I used to go to the park and ride bikes with my children on the trail, use the splash pad, and play tennis. Now I feel unsafe to go there. There are even people living in tents in the bushes next to the tennis court and I have my child asking me questions. I understand these people need somewhere to live and they should have a safe place, but this park is not the solution. The east side already has a bad reputation of being less wealthy and slummy. Driving to work today, I looked at the park and the tents have multiplied and also there are more campers (RV's).

I support agenda item 22.

Thank you,
Kandace

From: Kester, Dolores <dakester@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Tuesday, July 6, 2021 9:25 AM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>
Cc: John Abbas <syedfordistrict12@gmail.com>; Knepp, Eric <EKnepp@cityofmadison.com>; Okeefe, James <JOKeefe@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Please Support Agenda Item #22 Reindahl Park

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

Greetings:

Our friends and neighbors who, for whatever reason, currently have the bad fortune of being homeless deserve better than having to camp in all weather in a city park!

City Hall needs to make better arrangements for a place for them to live. This is not what our parks are for either. The park needs to be restored to its intended uses.

Please support Agenda Item #22.

Thank you for your time and attention,

Dolores Kester

1818 Winchester Street

Aldermanic District 12

From: McConkey Thumser <thumser@sbcglobal.net>

Sent: Tuesday, July 6, 2021 9:36 AM

To: Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Okeefe, James <JOKeefe@cityofmadison.com>; Knepp, Eric <EKnepp@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: "Support Alder Halverson's resolution on Reindahl"

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

Madison community members,

Alder Halverson is introducing a resolution (Agenda Item 22) which includes a new location on city-owned property for a campground - property that is not a public park. What is occurring in the park is obviously a complex social, community and public health issue. I live in the Greater Sandburg area and I have watched over time the growth of the Reindahl park encampment and it continues to grow and spread out. I have ridden my bike through the encampment so I have seen exactly what people are describing to you. Have you been out there yourself? Do you have any idea at all what things look like or how people interact or are treated? This encampment needs to end and EVERYONE needs to move on. This park supports our most diverse neighbors as well as myself and once again inequity rules.

Please support this resolution on July 6th.

Community member,
Angie McConkey

From: Kacie Piirto <kacie.piiirto@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 6, 2021 9:36 AM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Return Reindahl Park back to its intended use!

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

Return Reindahl Park back to its intended use! We are a family within walking distance of Reindahl park with an infant and a toddler, and it is a shame that we are unable to use the park for fear of the mentally unstable "campers", drug users, and prostitutes that have taken over the park.

If this was an all white neighborhood on the west side of the city, this would not even be an issue since the encampment would have never been allowed to happen. We are a diverse neighborhood with many living in apartments. The children of this neighborhood are getting their only greenspace, splash pad, and family friendly park taken away from them at the expense of the encampment.

I have sat through the calls set up by our Alder with the Mayor's office and police. It is clear that the Mayor's office and city police do not want to do anything to risk their own reputations to remove the encampment. They are putting their own reputations before the children of this city that they swore to serve. It is disgusting that they are protecting themselves before the most disenfranchised population of children and families of this city.

Take this issue seriously and put the children of the city first.

Sincerely,

Kacie Piirto
3209 Sunbrook Road
Madison, WI 53704

From: Harry Likely <harrylikely@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 6, 2021 9:54 AM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Reindahl Park | Unclean, Unsafe, Unusable

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

Return Reindahl Park back to its intended use immediately! We have a toddler and an infant, and I do not even feel safe having my wife bring them to the park by herself. We attempted to go to the splash pad earlier this summer and my toddler loved it, but even I was uncomfortable with the amount of campers spread throughout the park. Every shady tree and bush as a “camper” with who knows what trash and biohazard material that accompanies that. My daughter was begging to go the playground but I did not feel safe letting her run there let alone play with vagrants around.

If this was a wealthy white neighborhood, this would not even be an issue, since homelessness and criminal activity would not be allowed to happen. The diverse children of this neighborhood are punished by having their only greenspace, splash pad, and family friendly park taken away from them at the expense of the encampment. It is clear that the Mayor’s office and city police are putting their own reputations before the children of this city that they swore to serve. They are protecting themselves before the most disenfranchised population of children and families of this city, and should be ashamed for that.

Prove to the citizens of this city that they are valued and deserve to be protected. Remove the encampment and return Reindahl Park back to the children and families.

Harry Likely
3209 Sunbrook Road
Madison, WI 53704
608-886-3829

From: Rose Bottensek <rbottensek@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, July 6, 2021 10:09 AM

To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>

Subject:

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

Please shut down homeless encampments in taxpayer-funded public parks. There are plenty of programs available to help these people. If you aren't capable of finding an alternative solution to the problem, resign.

From: Rachel Kelly <rachelkelly@ymail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 6, 2021 10:13 AM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Support Alder Halverson's resolution on Reindahl

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

All,

Please support this resolution. Please support the residents in the neighboring communities. Please support Reindahl as a park, not a campground.

I have not used the park since the encampment moved in. I will not take my kids to the splash pad with the current encampment so close.

The encampment is out of control. It seems to be growing day by day. I don't know for sure, but it seems we (Madison) are encouraging these types of situations by allowing it.

Please listen to the residents and alders that this is directly affecting.

Thank you,
Rachel Kelly

From: Fields, Debbie <DFields@cityofmadison.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 6, 2021 10:35 AM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Phone message: No name

Someone left a message on the Council office voice mail on July 5. The person didn't leave their name but said she is 40-year resident in the Reindahl Park area, and she wants the park cleaned up. The filth and garbage is unhealthy. She has seen men and women go into the porta-potty near the splash pad together and come out about 20 minutes later. She thought the homeless weren't to be near the children's area. She usually uses the bike path but cars are parked all over. She had to use E Washington the other day because some of the men were arguing. When she talked to the police about it, they told her there had been a drug overdose 30 minutes earlier. She thinks all this is not acceptable. It's affecting families and businesses. No other park in Madison has this. It's appalling, and something needs to be done now. A three-year plan down the road is unacceptable.

From: Fields, Debbie <DFields@cityofmadison.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 6, 2021 10:37 AM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Phone message: No name

Someone left a message on the Council office voice mail on July 5 at 10:16pm. She is in support of agenda item #22 re: Reindahl Park. She lives near the park and rides her bike around and through there several times a week.

From: SARAH EICHSTADT <seichstadt@wisc.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, July 6, 2021 10:50 AM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Item 22

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

Madison Alders,

I would like you to say NO to resolution 66239: Directing City Staff to Enforce Ordinances Within Reindahl Park because of the last-minute process and because the nature of the resolution criminalizes Madison's homeless communities.

Thank You,
Sarah Eichstadt

From: sandra montello <sandramontello@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, July 6, 2021 10:56 AM

To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Homeless

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

Please vote no, evicting the homeless from Reindahl Park without providing a better place for them to live is cruel and heartless. Asking for public support to return the park to its "intended use" is sickening. Cuz what you're saying is these homeless people have less worth than those who have homes.

Step it up and make a better place before kicking them out. A BETTER PLACE, not somewhere too far from services or where the water is contaminated and toxic.

Sandra Montello

From: Katy Philabaum <katyphilabaum@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 6, 2021 11:00 AM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Item 22

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

Good Morning,

I am writing to urge you to vote against Item 22 at this evening's common council meeting. Not only did the introduction of this resolution not follow the normal process, you will be voting to displace 40 human beings from their home. There is no plan to transport them to the new location which is much, much farther from things they need. Please have compassion and empathy for our houseless citizens and focus your energy on real solutions to the causes of poverty and lack of housing in our community.

Thank you for your time,
Kathryn Philabaum

From: Bob <bobcat4057@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 6, 2021 11:05 AM
To: Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; Rhodes-Conway, Satya V. <SRhodes-Conway@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Cc: Okeefe, James <JOKeefe@cityofmadison.com>; Knepp, Eric <EKnepp@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: RE: Item 22 Reindahl Park encampment

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

Dear City of Madison leaders and staff,

Please read and take to heart my comments about the respectful way to help both the homeless people at the Reindahl encampment and the Greater Sandburg residents

Ending the encampment at Reindahl park:

It is time to end the encampment at Reindahl park. It violates state, county, and City of Madison laws or ordinances prohibiting encampment activities in public parks. Currently campers' tents are springing up in many other areas of the park which impact residents' ability to enjoy the intended use of the park. Our parks ought to be safe for our residents to use, especially in this case where many low-income and marginally challenged residents of various ethnic origins live. Is it right to deprive Madison residents of the Greater Sandburg neighborhood, whose residents are challenged with crossing East Washington Ave or Stoughton Road for activities, the opportunity to enjoy the full use of Reindahl park by allowing illegal free camping?

Are all campers out there homeless due to circumstances outside of their control? I think not based on the testimony given at an earlier city meeting by a person arriving from out of town, stopping at the park, and receiving a tent and sleeping bag to join the encampment.

Reindahl park does not seem to be a location equipped to accomplish helping homeless people recover and move forward.

There are reports that some campers are soiling the area with disrespectful hygiene practices, and disrespectfully taking advantage of the community gardens by going in and helping themselves.

The homeless people of our communities, who through no fault of their own have become homeless, deserve our respectful help and services to move back into homed status, where they can participate in helping Madison and Dane County become welcoming and vibrant communities.

Efforts have been made to find other park locations, but why is it necessary to occupy a well-used city park? Google Earth shows that there could be facilities to park campers in the First Street city lot near the current temporary men's homeless shelter. Adjacent to the surface

parking, there are also grassy lands for tents. The city could also erect large tent tops in unused portions of the surface lot to provide exposure relief from sun and rain.

Facilities in the men's shelter could be used for respectful hygiene purposes and other homeless service providers would be closer for those seeking help.

To be most effective, we must focus our limited resources on the homeless people who want help to improve their lives.

Here are some of my thoughts.

We cannot help homeless people if they do not want to improve their living situation.

We cannot help homeless people unless we know who they are.

We cannot help homeless people unless we know what help they need.

We need an organized plan to provide that help.

Letting homeless people just wander around and find a place to sleep does not help improve their lives.

The plan we need to adopt must have requirements.

All homeless people who desire to function in our society and achieve homed living must agree to the following:

1. Register with the city or county with name, previous address or community, reason for being homeless, what type of help needed if known, and agree to participate with the services provided to help homeless people.
2. After registering, they can be given identification documentation that also lists the service providers they need to work with and the resources the community provides.
3. Agree to contact and work with the suggested service providers to make progress and find suitable living locations.

Something of this nature will provide the community with measurable data about the services provided and the progress made.

Without a plan that also includes future acceptable safe camping options, we will not effectively end the homeless crisis.

Bob Schaefer

6 Cottonwood Circle

Madison WI 53704

From: Jack Innes <jack.k.innes@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 6, 2021 11:15 AM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Regarding Agenda Item #22

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

Hello,

This email urges the Madison Common Council to vote against agenda item #22 -- that is, Alder Halverson's resolution to move the occupants of the Reindahl encampment. As a Madison citizen, I believe that this unnecessarily criminalizes homelessness, especially since the new location is even more inhospitable to the needs of the Reindahl encampment's citizens. Please do not allow this resolution to pass.

Thank you,
Jack Innes

--

Jack Innes
he/him/his
University of Wisconsin-Madison | Class of 2021
jack.k.innes@gmail.com | (608)-220-0893

From: Cindy Merrigan <kcmerrigan@icloud.com>

Sent: Tuesday, July 6, 2021 11:20 AM

To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Currie, Jael <district16@cityofmadison.com>; Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Item #66239 Reindahl Park and other items

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

I support closing the encampment. This is a park, not free campground. The drug users/sellers should be put on a rehabilitation program and the sellers arrested. The freeloaders who enjoy this lifestyle should be kicked out. There are help wanted signs everywhere. Why not get a job. There are several agencies that can help with renters assistance.

I support body cameras for our police and allowing them the resources to fight crime and become neighbor police officers.

Make Madison safe again!

Funding for the Mayor's mass transit program should be put on hold for 5 to 10 years. I think the Mayor has a good idea, but now is not the time. These monies could go towards reducing the homeless population; social programs; rehab programs; and making our city safer for all residents.

Kevin Merrigan
District 16 Resident

From: Jeff Turk <president@friendsofthestatestreetfamily.org>
Sent: Tuesday, July 6, 2021 11:31 AM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Cc: Board of Directors <boardofdirectors@friendsofthestatestreetfamily.org>; Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Item 22 - Reindahl Park

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

Good Day Madison Alders -

In April I sent you an email regarding the displacement of our homeless friends who were at McPike park. FSSF is aware of the resolution regarding Reindahl park you will discuss tonight. Again, I will ask that you consider the following.

As a community we are challenged to find sustainable solutions to helping our homeless friends find stability in their lives. Friends of the State Street Family is concerned with how to best address the multitude of homeless individuals who will be displaced from Reindahl Park if item 22 on your agenda passes. The decisions we make as a community impact the well-being and safety of our homeless friends. Too often in the public discussion we view those in question as a nuisance and neglect to recognize that these are human beings who need help.

As a community, we created the situation where we allowed these people into Reindahl park. Given what we are seeing as we continue to recover from COVID, the homeless population will continue to grow in numbers. So while it may be easy to "enforce the ordinances" of Reindahl park, that will not address the logistics of these people being forced out to other pockets of the city. In no way do I think Reindahl park is a permanent solution, however, there needs to be some sort of a plan around relocating these human beings to another area that has accessibility to basic needs.

Enforcing the ordinances without any logistical consideration or support will inevitably lead to hardship not only for our homeless friends, but also the local groups working hard to assist our homeless friends. Please take this into consideration when item 22 comes to the floor tonight.

Jeff Turk
Board President
Friends of the State Street Family
Website: <https://friendsofthestatestreetfamily.org/>
E-mail: president@friendsofthestatestreetfamily.org
Outreach Line: [608-535-9394](tel:608-535-9394) (Voice to Text)

From: judybl@tds.net <judybl@tds.net>

Sent: Tuesday, July 6, 2021 11:55 AM

To: Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Please support Item #22

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

Please support item #22 and enforce the ordinances at Reindahl Park.

Thank you,
Judy Bluel, District 9
26 Oak Creek Trl

From: jbfrey@charter.net <jbfrey@charter.net>
Sent: Tuesday, July 6, 2021 12:09 PM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: [All Alders] Reindahl park

Recipient: All Alders

Name: bruce frey
Address: 530 HIGH CLIFF TRAIL, MADISON, WI 53718
Phone: 608-576-9928
Email: jbfrey@charter.net

Would you like us to contact you? Yes, by email

Message:

Alders, Please use commons sense when considering to end this encampment at Reindahl park. The park is unusable for the neighborhood because of safety issues. July 2, there was a large fight involving 10 people and they were uncooperative with police. Thefts are occurring from the local community gardens. There are 3 deaths associated with this encampment and more will be coming if there not dispersed. I realize the need to find a remedy to this homeless issue, but what was a small group has grown to a large encampment, preventing residents from safely using that park. Please use discretion when voting on this issue, Madison does not need illegal camping in city parks at the expense of city taxpayers that should have access to this park. It is a dangerous situation, one I have seen personally. I am a retired Madison police detective of 30yrs, and cant believe this encampment has been allowed to stand. Bruce Frey, Madison Wi

From: Mara Eisch <dreisch1028@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, July 6, 2021 12:17 PM

To: Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Figueroa Cole, Yannette <district10@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Reindahl Park Item #22

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

Mayor and ALders,

Item 22 (City Enforcement of Ordinances at Reindahl Park). Let's enforce the ordinances. There are resources available and places for these individuals to go. I do not want to see them living outside and am grateful we have city resources for them. Our homeless facilities are not even at 50% use, so there is plenty of room. MY ADDED CONCERN, is that no one else can use the park shelter, splash pad, or most of recreational space. The city is not renting out the shelter or turning on the splash pad. So we are paying for the homeless shelter and the park and neither are being used as intended. We have Ordinances to regulate this issue but they are not being enforced.

I am not speaking from heresay, I was there yesterday to see the encampment. There is definitely camping occurring with RV, hard side campers and multiple tenting groups. They are spreading out and growing. And some are clear that they are new to Madison and appreciate the park.

If this is going to be a campground, can I take my family there to camp too? At least I could be using my tax dollars in the park system.

Thank You
Mara Eisch
District 10

From: Larry Olson <lcolson1343@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 6, 2021 12:57 PM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Reindahl psrk

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

Dear Alder,

As a former Madison alderman and a lifetime Madisonian and a resident of the 17th district I am hoping that you will support Alderman Halverson in his effort to close the Reindahl encampment and return the park to the neighborhood and its intended usage.

Currently the neighborhood is afraid and/or uncomfortable in using the park as it was intended to be used.

Reindahl is a beautiful neighborhood park or it was until it has been turned into an encampment for the homeless.

We have alternatives for the homeless and we need more shelter for the homeless all of which can and should be used rather than prohibiting the neighborhood from using their park.

Please support item 22.

Thank you for all you do for our city.

Larry Olson
5204 Autumn Leaf Lane #202
Madison, WI 53704

From: Heather Huber <Heather_Huber@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 6, 2021 12:58 PM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Opposition to 7/6 Agenda Item 22

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

Hello Alders,

My name is Heather Huber and I live in Council President Abbas's District 12. I am writing regarding houselessness in the city, today specifically in opposition to Agenda Item 22 proposed by Alder Halverson (District 17.)

Alder Halverson is proposing to shut down the encampment in Reindahl Park and push our houseless community members outside of the city and, specifically, outside of his district. Those people are community members, they are constituents. It sure looks like the City doesn't want to find suitable housing and resources for houseless folks, but just wants to shove them out of our community. This is unacceptable.

I am disgusted with the lack of support the city has provided our community members, and I am appalled by the city's continuous attempts to shut down the Reindahl Park encampment without any actual solutions. A resolution to halt the eviction of the Reindahl Park encampment was broadly supported by the public back in May and referred to the appropriate committees for discussion, yet Alder Halverson, with the backing of Council President Abbas, is undermining both the consensus of the Common Council and of the public with this fraudulent resolution.

The city of Madison has repeatedly broken its promises to our houseless community members. This has been an ongoing disappointment for decades. You can no longer kick the can down the road. Madison needs real solutions that actually help the unhoused and meets their needs, not Madison's image needs.

Thank you for your time.

Heather Huber
She/Her
2742 Coolidge Street
Madison, WI 53704

From: Joseph Keyes <jkeyes1a1@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, July 6, 2021 1:32 PM

To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>

Cc: Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; Okeefe, James <JOKeefe@cityofmadison.com>; Knepp, Eric <EKnepp@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Support Agenda item #22 - "Directing City Staff to Enforce Ordinances Within Reindahl Park"

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

Dear Alders,

I urge you to support agenda item #22 - "Directing City Staff to Enforce Ordinances Within Reindahl Park". There has been drug use, human trafficking, fights, and drug overdose deaths at Reindahl Park. For the good of the campers and those diverse families who use the park, the campers need a different environment with support to help them secure employment and/or support them in controlling their mental health challenges. Again, please support agenda item #22.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Keyes

District 11

From: Sophia Caruccio <sophia.caruccio@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 6, 2021 1:44 PM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Opposition to item #22

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

Alders,

Please consider voting against item 22 tonight, houseless people deserve basic human respect and dignity. They rely on important resources close to downtown and uprooting them will be traumatizing and harmful.

From: Pete Schwieger <pjschwieger@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, July 6, 2021 2:15 PM

To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Opposition to Reindahl Park Resolution

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

Dear Madison Alders and Mayor Rhodes-Conway,

I'm appalled at the inclusion of Agenda Item #22 on the agenda for tonight's common council meeting and strongly voice my opposition to this resolution.

Y'all didn't feel it was enough to outright criminalize homelessness, but in addition, you accelerated this terrible resolution to evict the people (real, actual people) from their camp in Reindahl Park and provided a half-assed solution to set up a new camp in a much worse location, with more limited access to services and no actual plan to assist in the relocation process.

You had the opportunity to help these folks with a long-term shelter plan earlier this year, and mustered enough support against that to deny help and support, and now, you present this terrible plan. The role of government is to help people - and you're doing a downright shitty job of that here.

Be better, all of us in Madison (especially those most marginalized) deserve more than whatever this is.

Sincerely,
Pete Schwieger
813 S Brooks St
District 13

From: Marsha Rummel <marsha.rummel@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 6, 2021 2:28 PM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Please oppose Legistar 66239

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

Dear Alder Benford and all alders-

Please do not support [Legistar 66239](#) and relocate unhoused residents from Reindahl Park to 3218 Dairy Dr, without any process for city committee review as previously directed by your actions or public engagement including conversations with those most affected. It is not good policy making. It is cruel.

During my tenure on the Council, it became clear to me that one of the fundamental issues facing the city is that there is no legal place to live outside unless you live in your (operable) vehicle and can follow parking regulations. Previous council actions did not succeed in changing ordinances to allow living outside so now it is on this council. I know many of you are working on multiple strategies (new purpose built shelters for men and women/families, options that include wet shelters, more affordable housing including support for tiny homes, eviction prevention funds, more case management and street outreach etc) but the contradiction of where you can legally live outside still needs to be addressed. You can't just say you support housing first solutions when there is not enough supply and then criminalize living outside.

I've included a link to an article from Shelterforce about the coordinated entry system that was posted on the Dane County affordable housing activist email list today. I wanted to share it with alders to make sure you see it. [The Hunger Games of Homeless Services](#). As many of you know, the Madison coordinated entry process also experiences the problems identified in the article and is part of the larger dysfunction. The catchy summary sticks for me: "Ultimately, coordinated entry is not "the Match.com of homeless services." It is more like the Hunger Games of housing access".

Please take the time to understand how this dysfunctional system of homeless services and lack of affordable housing needs to change before you decide to scatter people, again.

Thanks for your attention-

Marsha Rummel

From: Merikay Payne <merikay_merikay@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 6, 2021 2:45 PM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Reindahl homeless encampment

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

Hello,

I am sending information I'd like to share with you about the Reindahl homeless encampment. Please let me know if you receive.

Thank you.

Merikay Payne
Madison, WI

There seems to be a disconnect between balancing the needs of the homeless at Reindahl Park encampment with the needs of those using the park for sports, gardening or leisure. Environmental, physical and safety concerns affect everyone.

The concentration of people, tents, RVs, and campers creates environmental degradation to Reindahl Park and will take years to amend. Storm water gullies will form in compressed soil causing erosion. The magnitude of people will cause damage to flora and fauna.

The concentration of people, tents, RVs, and campers creates an environment that allows communicable diseases to spread. The amount of refuse generated over a long period of time attracts rodents. Sanitation practices are difficult to enforce in an undocumented encampment which lacks rules.

As evidenced by police presence the concentration of people, tents, RVs, and campers causes safety issues for those living in the area and those using the park. Single women and minority garden users are at risk. Young children who use the community splash park are also vulnerable.

Doing nothing, refusing to enforce current rules, and allowing the encampment to grow is a disservice to all. Several groups on all sides of the issue should be looking into the encampment. As a problem-solving resource the city could work with UW urban design students. An idea I'm presenting, though not in final form, addresses these problems and hopefully serves to spark discourse.

Set aside three appropriate acreage parks from the east, west, south, and north sides of Madison. These twelve parks would rotate as homeless encampments for one month each. The homeless would register to stay in a homeless encampment park. Rules would have to be made for the parks, those living there, and types of housing allowed.

Once a month the homeless would be transported to a different park. An appropriate number of toilets and dumpsters distributed would depend on the number of registrations for that month. Those not registered may not stay in encampment, but may be put up in a hotel.

Resolving the Reindahl encampment issue in a fair and equitable way for homeless, park users, and city residents is the goal.

Merikay Payne

From: JCin3 <jcin3@tds.net>
Sent: Tuesday, July 6, 2021 3:33 PM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Resolution to force out people staying at Reindahl Park

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

To: All City of Madison Alderperdons

Re: Agenda item 22 at July 6, 2021 meeting - Resolution to force out people staying at Reindahl Park (by Gary Halverson)

Please, please vote against this resolution. What happened to the resolution already being worked on in committees related to this issue and hopefully to genuinely help this community. It seems very inappropriate to introduce this new redolution at the last minute and over a holiday weekend! And, then to suggest in this resolution that they go to a terrible location. The field by the intersection near I-39 & the Beltline with no shade, water or electricity, and even farther away from services, grocery stores and people who are helping them. Life is already hard enough for this community of people! Imagine if this community included you and/or family you love; is this how you'd want them to be treated? Please do all you can to help these people and help them stay in their houseless community.

Please vote against this resolution.

Thank you,

Beth Feran

Please do the right thing and vote against this resolution.

From: Isaac Schwarz <ischwarz1994@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 6, 2021 3:39 PM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Do Not Evict Homeless People from Reindahl Park.

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

Dear Alders:

I am a resident on the east side of Madison, and I am disgusted by Ald. Halverson's resolution to evict homeless people from Reindahl Park. Alders, you must reject this reckless and ignorant proposal.

The city government has already seen fit to evict people from McPike Park, perhaps because they were too visible for the comfort of affluent, classist students and professionals on the isthmus. Now, they are too visible for Ald. Halverson's comfort even far on the east side.

Ald. Halverson may mean well, but he fails to consider that homeless people's housing needs are urgent and immediate. He says that we "should help these individuals get on a path toward long-term housing" which is true, but you don't accomplish that by evicting people from their current living arrangements without any viable alternative. Ald. Halverson must find it in himself to have compassion for each and every person living within the borders of his district -- not merely those who are lucky enough to have stable housing.

The most humane and viable solution would be providing fully-furnished apartment units to homeless individuals and families for free, indefinitely, with no strings attached. Many of the social problems of poverty arise from the dire conditions of homelessness. If you don't address that root issue, you will never abolish homelessness in Madison. Isn't that what we all want? Yes, it would cost money, but you can't put a price on dignity and humanity.

But if you are not willing to invest in housing as a human right, you must leave homeless people alone. If Madison was really so concerned for homeless people's wellbeing, the city would make sure they all had roofs over their heads, with water and electricity and healthy food to eat. But if Ald. Halverson's disgusting resolution is any indication, the city government would rather perpetuate the marginalization and impoverishment of its homeless residents. I urge you all to vote against the resolution, and seek a permanent housing solution instead of further immiserating your own constituents.

Regards,
Isaac

--

Isaac Schwarz
2L, University of Wisconsin Law School
Student Advocate, Legal Assistance to Incarcerated People Project

President, Socialist Law Students of Wisconsin
Treasurer, Teaching Assistants' Association (AFT Local 3220)
Treasurer, Wisconsin Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers - Student Chapter

Pronouns: he/him/his

Cell: (708) 990-8046

School email: ischwarz@wisc.edu

Personal email: ischwarz1994@gmail.com

From: Tris Cushman <tristac19@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, July 6, 2021 3:44 PM

To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; Carter, Sheri <district14@cityofmadison.com>; Halverson, Gary <district17@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Opposition of Agenda item #22 at 7/6/21 Common Council Meeting

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

Hello Alder Carter!

My name is Tris Cushman and I am emailing as a concerned citizen of Madison, in your district. Today, I want to talk with you about an issue that is very important to me that you have the ability to do something about— houselessness in the city.

Specifically, I am emailing to ask that you oppose **agenda item #22** proposed by Alder Gary Halverson of District 17 because it is an attack on our houseless community members. Alder Halverson aims to shut down the encampment in Reindahl Park and push our houseless community members outside of the city and, specifically, outside of his district. Some residents of Reindahl Park fear that the city is trying to eliminate its “homelessness problem” not by finding suitable housing and resources for houseless folks but by simply isolating them on the outskirts of the city. As an active community member and concerned citizen who has been assisting the unhoused population in madison for years, I am outraged at what i am seeing.

I am disgusted with the lack of support the city has provided our community members, and I am appalled by the city’s continuous attempts to shut down the Reindahl Park encampment without any actual solutions. A resolution to halt the eviction of the Reindahl Park encampment was broadly supported by the public back in May and was referred to the appropriate committees for discussion, yet Alder Halverson, with the backing of Council President Abbas, is undermining both the consensus of the Common Council and of the public with this fraudulent resolution. This resolution has come as a surprise to the unhoused individuals it is addressing, as well as to those community members (including myself) who are attempting to aide these people. Actions such as this erode the relationship between the city, outreach workers such as myself, and the unhoused communities in madison.

The city of Madison, especially Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway, has repeatedly broken its promises to our houseless community members. We will not stand for it and ask that you join us in voicing your opposition to this resolution. Let this also be a friendly reminder that the people of Madison do keep tabs on which alders represent the wishes of their constituents and, if you are hoping for re-election in the coming term, it would be wise to do your job correctly and represent our voices.

Thank you for your time.

Tris Cushman (they/them/theirs or we/us/ours)

From: Rachel Welsh <rachelrwelsh@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 6, 2021 3:50 PM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: I support the encampment

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

Please oppose item #22 at tonight's meeting. As a citizen living in the same district as and a user of the park I am in FULL opposition to any action being taken to move the people from Reindalh park's encampment- especially with the plan that is in place now- it is SO HARMFUL!

thank you,
Rachel Welsh
Sunbrook Rd resident

From: Bob Klebba <bob.klebba@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, July 6, 2021 3:56 PM

To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Homeless in Reindalh

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

Dear alders:

I recognize that Alder Halverson is trying to address part of our city's homeless problem with their proposed resolution tonight. However, their effort is misguided and will serve to traumatize those who've lived there and will only push the perceived problem somewhere else.

However, attempting to obviate referral to committees goes against our community's ethos of greater participation in government. If this proposal should move forward, it cannot be passed in a special suspension of rules.

Please respect our normal procedure for conducting business and don't allow an apparent fast-track approach that will only create more problems down the road.

thank you, Best Bob

--

Bob Klebba he him his

704 E Gorham St

Madison WI 53703-1522

608-209-8100

www.governorsmansioninn.com

www.mendotalakehouse.com

www.canterburymadison.com

From: Carol Hermann <hermann.carol.l@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 6, 2021 4:25 PM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Reindahl Park resolution

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

Dear Members of the Common Council and Mayor Rhodes-Conway,

I am writing to oppose the resolution introduced by Alder Halverson to evict the Reindahl Park encampment of residents for whom our community has not provided adequate support and housing options to meet their needs. I don't understand why this resolution was introduced and normal rules of procedure suspended other than to perpetuate the common practice that our city has of hiding unpleasant realities under our metaphorical rug. Rather than waste valuable council time tonight, please let the committee process do its work.

Thank you,

Carol Hermann

From: Jon Becker <jonbecker@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 6, 2021 4:25 PM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Reindahl park woods vs encampment ?

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

Hello,

My apartment is on a property adjacent to the western boundary of Reindahl Park. The southwestern-most portion of the encampment under discussion tonight is just barely visible from my living room window.

I've visited the encampment, and have spoken with a couple of the persons who are living in the 1-acre woods. I'm concerned about their exposure to heat and to lightning. The Reindahl Park site, like almost all of Madison, has tick and mosquitoes (likely as many as the area near Starkweather Creek's eastern branch where the other current encampment is located). Those encamped at Reindahl Park also have to put up with the noise from E Washington St, the nearby airport (with F-35s in the future), PFAS contamination, and the frequent sirens and horns from the nearby fire station. Additionally, the park suffers from extreme light pollution, from city street lighting, as well as security lighting for nearby commercial and strip mall properties (esp. The two fast food sites).

In a nutshell, this is not a good site for camping. The noise is quite problematic even for an apartment or housedweller, but at least we don't have to worry much about lightning strikes.

I live in D17, now represented by Alder Halvorson. He is doing a better job communicating with constituents, compared to the previous alder, though Alder Baldeh, Alder Halvorson seems to be willing to take positions that can not possibly reflect district consensus (e.g., his opposition to the East Towne homeless housing site that the city proposed was not preceded by any public meetings of which I am aware).

Alder Halvorson has even made an attempt to get input from the community on this issue, with two Zoom meetings.

However, I recently received an email sent to "NA Leaders." It asked for support of Alder Halvorson's resolution regarding the encampment in Reindahl Park. It is important for the City Council to know something: There is no active "NA" for this area. The Greater Sandburg NA hasn't met for years. There are no NA elected leaders. Yet the present and past alders, as well as city staff, act like there is a NA with elected alders.

Instead, there is a listserv that includes some folks who co-founded Greater Sandburg NA. Some of those listservs have had undue influence on city decisions about the library proposed for Reindahl Park, including former D17 Alder Clausius, who testified as a "representative" of the non-existent Greater Sandburg NA at a parks and library boards meeting in 2020.

Along with then Alder Baldeh, one of the inactive NA's co-founders more recently signed off as a Greater Sandburg NA representative, on a city document for the proposed Interstate development on Portage Road south of I-95. The result: children living there will now have to travel 7-9 miles to DeForest schools, rather than <2 miles to Sandburg ES. Also, Madison lost out on an offer from the developer to build space for a library (condo style, as at Pinney or Sequoya PLs), which would have saved city taxpayers millions.

How is all this related to Alder Halvorson's resolution and housing for the homeless? For one thing, the Zoom meetings, rapidly pulled together using the listserv likely did not provide good representation of the community.

More generally: Decisions made in and around Reindahl Park since 2018, have cost much more than necessary. The excess spending, which totals in the several millions, could have instead funded housing for the city's homeless men. That housing could perhaps, with the community's support, been built above the library proposed by the city for inside Reindahl Park, if it were to be built adjacent to the park, rather than in it. [NOTE: The city council had to pass an ordinance to allow such cultural facilities to be built inside parks, where housing is not allowed, for obvious reasons.]

These decisions were enabled by the non-existent Sandburg NA listservs, as well as by past-Alders Clausius and Baldeh, by the city parks director Eric Knepp, the city library director (Mickells), and by MMSD sewer director (Mucha), and by two mayors (Soglin and Rhodes-Conway). The city paid more because MMSD suddenly, without community input, wanted to purchase a larger sewer reliver pipe, the library wanted a stand-alone facility (at 30,000 SF, 1.5 times larger than Pinney PL), and parks wanted to co-locate some offices within the library (in addition to the offices it will now occupy on Turville Point?). The upsized pipe cost a lot more, as will the stand-alone, upsized library/parks building.

All of this also, for no good reason, resulted in a sewer pipe being trenched, 40' deep x 40'w, through Reindahl Park's only old growth woods. The soil fauna and flora disturbed by the trenching will require at least 75 years to be self-mended by the remaining trees. 37 mature trees were cut down.

Adding insult to injury, a city parks planner (Freiwald) and director Knepp insisted on having MMSD pay for paving a path over the refilled trench. Additionally, Director Knepp delayed the promised master plan revision for the park to 2023, after having promised it would take place in early 2020. Neither the sewer trench nor the paved path nor any library is in the 2013 master plan for Reindahl Park.

No one, including city parks, seems to care that the encampment, by killing undergrowth and compressing soil, is endangering Reindahl woods even further. That includes the ~200-year old bur oaks that have stood there since the French colonial era on the lands that were home to the Ho Chunks. This one-acre woods is habitat for many critters. The continued use of this woods for encampment is making those critters homeless. Following city-enabled trenching and paving that bisected Reindahl woods, the encampment may well kill this woods. Then there won't be shade for persons who homeless or other critters.

The city recently [purchased a strip mall on South Park Street, for redevelopment](#). Why not take the same approach with one of the several commercial properties adjacent to Reindahl

Park. Why not build the proposed library (Imagination Center) there, with housing for folks who are homeless above? As with the Central Library, the library proposed for the Reindahl area, with BRT service on East Washington, likely will be heavily used by persons who are homeless, especially if they are housed nearby.

Sincerely, Jon

Jon Becker
PO Box 8574, Madison, WI 53708 USA

From: Barbara McCarthy <bmccarthy13@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 6, 2021 4:35 PM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Reindahl Park encampment

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

I support returning Reindahl Park to its use as a park for all and not an encampment filled with trash, several cars parked on the grass and behavior that is unpleasant to hear as I work in my garden plots next to the encampment.

Find an immediate solution. We are now months away from when the camp was supposed to end. Take some action so law abiding citizens, families and children can enjoy the park.

Barb

From: Karl Gutknecht <karlg@charter.net>
Sent: Tuesday, July 6, 2021 4:48 PM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Cc: Halverson, Gary <district17@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: City Parks encampments (sic)

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

In a broader and real context this “encampment” situation is toxic.

City employees (aka government) have been able to divert attention shirking responsibility and frame this it as ‘residents’ pitted against the helpless and deserving. This is very unfortunate and does not serve our community well. Then throw into the mix with professional-class non profit “private” enablers and the potential for volatility expands.

To frame this for what it really is...city government has cleverly and conveniently dumped this load of dysfunction directly and deliberately in our neighborhood as there is almost no political risk for it, —Hmong, Hispanic, and other Asian “low income” gardeners are not the constituency that counts. .

We are disenfranchised (low income, multi racial) already, and what better place than a woods in an underfunded, unused park to establish and encourage Hooverville.. Then, set up the false narrative of this wooded glen adjaent to “food sources” aka Wendy’s or a tick invested swamp as the alternative. There is no cost politically to city government, and this “fake fight” can just rage on pitting these hapless citizens (locals) against “the homeless” with “the City” wringing its hands and continuing to “study”.

The lack of business community cohesion, the complete pass by “the faith” community, and leadership void in this neighborhood—or even awareness among residents- all continue to make Reindahl aka Sandburg the “perfect solution”.

The hostility among “the campers” towards residents firmly frames this “fight” and the city is absolved.

Karl Gutknecht

4509 Mallory Circle
Madison, WI 53704
Culture Ventures International
4509 Mallory Cir, Madison WI USA
608.345.6557 (mobile); 608.244.2432 (office)

From: Miriam Hasan <miriamhasan@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 6, 2021 5:12 PM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Please vote no on 66239.

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

Hello Alders,

I'd like to request that you vote no on resolution 66239. This resolution deserves the regular amount of scrutiny, consideration, and debate but it was just introduced before the holiday weekend and I just found out about it this afternoon. I am sympathetic to the folks that want to enjoy leisure activities at their neighborhood park but this could be really devastating to the campers, and I want to be assured that any relocation plan is thoughtful and sensitive to that. I am concerned about what I've heard about the space proposed for the relocation of the camp and want to learn more about it, but I haven't had time. Why the rush?

Miriam Hasan
2722 Sommers Ave.
Madison WI 53704

From: Dana Pellebon <pellebond@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 6, 2021 5:16 PM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Agenda Item #22

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

Dear Alders,

I strongly encourage you to vote against Agenda Item #22 and allow this resolution to go to committee first so that all of the options can be considered. We do not have a concerted plan for dealing with those without permanent homes and pushing this population to yet another location without the full process that is normally allotted for these decisions seems to be a way to skirt the rules and the processes that are set forth by the Common Council. We need to work with the encamped community and hear their voices of which, as residents of Madison, should be centered in these conversations. Please give this resolution to the proper committees and give this time to fully flush out the right solution instead of the expedient solution. Thank you for your time and your energy.

Regards,

Dana Pellebon

From: Brian Lavendel <blavendel@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, July 6, 2021 5:20 PM

To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Please oppose item 22 on the agenda, which would kick housing-insecure folks out of Reindahl Park

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

Dear City Alders,

As a resident of the east side of Madison, I frequently bike through Reindahl Park. So I have personally witnessed the growth of the encampment over the past many months. Is it a problem? Well, it's certainly the symptom of a problem.

Is the encampment the long-term solution for those dealing with housing insecurity? I don't think so. But is kicking those folks OUT of the park a solution? Hardly!

It merely PRETENDS to solve the problem. How long will it take for the more privileged in our community to have empathy and understanding rather than wanting to turn a blind eye to our neighbors who are experiencing housing insecurity? This resolution will make matters WORSE not better. Please can we not continue to indulge in the fantasy that moving uncomfortable realities from plain sight is a solution. No, that's not a solution--that's ignoring the neediest among us, that's allowing privilege to do harm.

Instead, let's work to address the underlying factors. For example, let's develop tiny home communities throughout the city, and offer not only affordable/free housing, but the services and community support our neighbors need and deserve.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours in community,
Brian Lavendel
Madison WI

From: Bonnie Roe <bonnie.roe@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, July 6, 2021 5:32 PM

To: Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Please support Item 22

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

Dear Mayor and Alders,

Please support the Resolution to restore Reindahl Park to its intended purpose. This situation has become untenable and is hazardous to those visiting the park and those camping there, with three deaths having occurred already. The conditions are unsanitary and not equipped with facilities for ongoing living. Crimes are occurring on a regular basis, making the location unsafe for all. It is in violation of City ordinances and State laws.

Please support the Resolution in agenda #22.

Thank you,

Bonnie Roe
District 10
608-239-1748

From: Matt Fraser <mattfraser1989@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 6, 2021 5:36 PM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Reindahl Park Resolution

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

My name is Matt Fraser and I am a Madison resident. I want to encourage alders to vote against the resolution to move the Reindahl Park houseless camp. They are human beings and deserve to have their humanity respected. And approval to move the camp shows a disgusting level of lack of compassion or heart or humanity.

From: kenneth saville <kensaville.1951@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, July 6, 2021 6:11 PM

To: Knepp, Eric <EKnepp@cityofmadison.com>; Okeefe, James <JOKeefe@cityofmadison.com>; Rhodes-Conway, Satya V. <SRhodes-Conway@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Halverson, Gary <district17@cityofmadison.com>

Subject:

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

I hope this is not too late before the meeting tonight. My wife and I live in district 17 a few blocks from Reindahl park. I do have a problem with the tent city that has developed over the past few months. I used to walk in the park quite often but less now, partly due to number of diverse people there. It seems at times that between the tents and people hanging out in the parking lot there is not a lot of room left for others on the west end of the park. I don't think sanitation is very good and I am certain that drug use is common. I don't necessarily fear for my safety but am uncomfortable in the park.

I am at the same time understanding of the plight of the homeless. I am uncertain how to solve the problem but not sure the the situation as it stands is the right approach.

Many dedicated city and non-profit staff are working hard to solve this issue ams best possible so I leave it to them find a better solution. At this point I stand with Gary Halverson and would agree with his agenda.

Ken Saville

From: Wegleitner, Heidi <Wegleitner.Heidi@countyofdane.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 6, 2021 6:15 PM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Vote no on suspension of rules/Item 22!

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

Dear Alders,

I'm appalled at the effort to ram through a proposal to criminalize vulnerable community members living in encampments at Reindahl. I urge you to oppose the motion. Alders, staff, and outreach workers are working on constructive solutions. Forcing people to a new location is traumatizing and very disruptive to these other efforts.

I will continue to pursue ways the county can work with the city to -create permanent and supportive affordable housing,
- create new SROs or efficiencies through hotel purchases,
- site, develop, and operate purpose built shelter, -establish lawful places and supportive services for people to carry out life sustaining activities,
- address transportation barriers for people experiencing homelessness, and -expand access to behavioral health services.

Please reject this motion and prioritize the needs and voices of people experiencing homelessness. This resolution just shuts them out of the public space, literally and figuratively. It's shameful.

Thank you for your consideration,

Heidi

From: Esty Dinur <eedinur99@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 6, 2021 6:25 PM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Item 22 in today's agenda

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

Dear alders,

I urge you to vote against item 22, alder Halverson's initiative to further victimize houseless people. Living in tents, with very few, if any, resources, is very hard. Now ald. Halverson wants to make their lives even harder by exiling them to an area that is even farther than essential services than Reindahl Park and even less access to transportation.

I urge you to vote against this resolution, based on both the terrible last minute process which ignores the current resolution going to committees regarding Reindahl, and the content of the resolution, which criminalizes homelessness.

Thanks you,

Esty Dinur
...for, truly, I am not a website and my name is not Etsy.

From: Morgan Young <morganeyoung@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 6, 2021 6:31 PM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject:

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

Dear Alders,

I'm dismayed at the effort to ram through a proposal to criminalize vulnerable community members living in encampments at Reindahl. I ask you to oppose the motion. Alders, staff, and outreach workers are working on constructive solutions. Forcing people to a new location is traumatizing and very disruptive to these other efforts.

I want to see my city and county:

- create permanent and supportive affordable housing,
- create new SROs or efficiencies through hotel purchases,
- site, develop, and operate purpose built shelter, -establish lawful places and supportive services for people to carry out life sustaining activities,
- address transportation barriers for people experiencing homelessness, and -expand access to behavioral health services.

Please reject this motion and prioritize the needs and voices of people experiencing homelessness. This resolution just shuts them out of the public space, literally and figuratively. It's disgusting.

I appreciate your consideration,
Morgan

Morgan Young
1717 Fremont Ave

From: Evelyn Gildrie-Voyles <gildrievoyles@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, July 6, 2021 6:49 PM

To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Please withdraw or do not support Agenda Item 22 as currently written

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

Dear Alders and Mayor,

My Name is Evelyn Gildre-Voyles. I live at 202 Farley Avenue. I am grateful for the slow down of Agenda Item 22 and for the time for this resolution to be reconsidered and improved. If people are to be forced out of Reindahl there must be viable alternatives for them to move to. If these alternatives are not in place before the forced move the people in Reindahl will be scattered and hide in places that are difficult for outreach workers and volunteers to reach.

Here is the comment that I was going to give tonight. Please read it and consider how you all can work together with the people of Reindahl to move forward for both short term solutions and long term housing options in Madison.

I am here to register my opposition to agenda item 22 which calls for the City to remove the people living at Reindahl park. This resolution is not being proposed in the normal manner. It feels extremely hasty and in bad faith as it was added to the agenda at the start of a holiday weekend. While the proposal includes an alternate site, the site on 3218 Dairy Drive is even further away from services than Reihdahl park. The closest public transportation is a park and ride designed for those commuting from the suburbs and therefore is not steady throughout the day and night. IT is far away from grocery stores and gas stations where food and water can be purchased. There is no running water or electricity at 3218 Dairy Drive. This resolution contains no plan for assisting people who have very little resources in moving so far away from Reindahl nor does it offer guarantees that handwashing stations and bathrooms will be set up at the site in a timely manner. The primary purpose of this resolution seems to push unsheltered people further out of sight rather than actually offer a viable outdoor option for people who are currently unable to find housing or access the shelter system for personal reasons or because certain shelters are full or only allow intake at times that conflict with work schedules. Alder Halverson said in an interview on July 5th that " We shouldn't be looking at living outside as okay." I agree that outdoor living is not what I wish for anyone however when there is not enough affordable housing, rapid housing programs, or housing first options available there is no place for these people to go that is inside. The choice facing the council tonight is not between people living in the park or people living inside. It is between people living in the park or people being uprooted and scattered without the dignity of being consulted and considered in the decision. The choice tonight is between treating people like people or treating them like eyesores to be hidden and discarded. Please vote no on this resolution. I ask that the City Council and the Mayor work together with the people living at Reidahl and the outreach workers to find viable alternatives to living at Reindahl while also working to provide more housing and shelter options. Thank you

Evelyn Gildrie-Voyles

202 Farley Avenue

Madison, WI 53705

pronouns: She, Her, hers

From: Olivia Williams <oliviareneewilliams@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 6, 2021 6:49 PM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Oppose item 22

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

Hi Council,

Please oppose item 22. It would be criminal to move campers farther from services, gas stations, bus lines, or shade especially while we are still in a pandemic.

Olivia Williams
Moland St.

From: Norm Littlejohn <norm.littlejohn@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 6, 2021 7:39 PM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Item 22

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

Hello, Alders -- Item 22 on tonight's agenda is a cruel disgrace, especially after a Council minority of five stymied a men's shelter near Reindahl Park just weeks ago. Please reject it.

Norm Littlejohn
2209 Cypress Way #16, Alder District 14
Madison

From: Jim Thompson <jthomps6@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 6, 2021 7:48 PM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Whoa! Please slow down and think!

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

Rushing to displace homeless folks with a half-fast (yes... say it quickly and you'll know what you've got) plan is imprudent, inhumane, heartless and altogether stupid...

Please slow down and reconsider with input from those who have been thinking about alternatives ... your actions have real consequences for real people.

Think and think again before you rush to act...

Sincerely,
Jim Thompson

From: Alina Dima <alina.dima@hotmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, July 7, 2021 4:43 PM

To: Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; Halverson, Gary <district17@cityofmadison.com>;

All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Okeefe, James <JOKeefe@cityofmadison.com>;

Knepp, Eric <EKnepp@cityofmadison.com>; Matt Brophy <mattbroph@gmail.com>

Subject: Please return Reindahl Park to its intended use

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

We are desperately asking you to support Alderman's Gary Halverston resolution to end the encampment at Reindahl park.

We have been waiting for the authorities to find a solution and find a safe place for the people in need of a safe shelter but it has been more than a year and there is still no resolution or even a plan for a resolution. Looks like many that are taking decisions in this area are still thinking that encampment is a good way to solve this – We think that it is not – it is not ok for people to live outside!

What started as a temporary solution has become a nightmare for the citizens living in the neighborhood and the people that are visiting the park.

We cannot use the bike path anymore because we were aggressively talked to when just biking by the encampment place, we cannot use the tennis court, because there are tents and Ice shacks around the tennis courts, it is not safe to even have a walk in the neighborhood anymore. During the past 2-3 months we have been hearing screams and noises during the night as well, and I do not feel safe not even when being at home anymore.

Please listen to and consider our concerns! We have the right to a safe environment and the encampment has altered that for everyone in a significant way.

From: Beth Hornung <bhornung@charter.net>
Sent: Thursday, July 8, 2021 5:01 PM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Homeless Encampment at Reindahl Park

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

Alders,

First of all thank you for serving the residents of the the city of Madison. I am a long time resident and former teacher and human service professional. I am writing regarding the homeless encampment at Reindahl Park. I am concerned that the way in which the Mayor and City Council are handling the homeless encampment is detrimental to the the city residents who live by Reindahl Park, pay taxes to use Reindahl Park and detrimental to the individuals experiencing homelessness who are utilizing city services and those who are choosing to camp at Reindahl Park. In other words your time and effort used to serve the constituents of Madison in regards to the homeless encampment at Reindahl park is a no win situation and far from a solution. District 17 Alder Gary Halverson was representing his constituents with his proposal to direct city staff to enforce ordinances prohibiting camping in city parks and restore Reindahl to it's proper condition. I support this proposal and the other Alders who voted in support of it: Alders Syed Abbas, Sheri Carter, Barbara Harrington-McKinney, Arvina Martin and Charles Myadze. These Alders continue to show common sense and regard for their constituents and the long term livability and viability of Madison. This encampment was supposed to be temporary due to Covid. The City Council and Mayor should have taken action to end it in May. I have read about and observed what goes on at the homeless encampment. Unlawful behavior such as fights, stabbings, beatings, theft, public urination, drugs, alcohol, etc. is not in the best interest of any constituent including constituents who are experiencing homelessness. That this is being allowed in a public park close to a community garden, splash pad, soccer fields, shelter, walking/biking trails, and residential neighborhoods is without merit. Ask yourself would you or those you care about want to live in the conditions that exist in the encampment? Is this how best to serve those experiencing homelessness? Madison is fortunate to have resources available for those willing to accept them. Our goal should not be to enable living long term in a homeless encampment. This is not advocacy. We should support proposals that encourage individuals to get the help they need to become more independent, contributing members of society with stable housing and support. Elected officials should also not be supporting and encouraging homeless encampments unless your goal for Madison is to become more like San Francisco, Venice Beach, Portland, Seattle, etc. Sometimes I wonder if it is? Please listen to and respect the Alders who represent the areas most affected by the encampment and the other residents of our city who are very concerned with the direction our beloved Madison is going.

Thank you,
Beth Hornung

From: Mary Mussey <mmmussey@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 8, 2021 3:12 PM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: creativity at the encampment!

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

Hello Alders of Madison,

Might I compliment you on a job well done? After several mornings of gardening this week I have noticed how well the portable potty is working. It is doing a fine job facilitating the prostituting for drugs/money. When a woman hangs out by the structure with her cell phone and then later enters with a man and leaves 20 minutes later I can only hope she is paid appropriately. This activity also explains why the campers use the woods for their bathroom needs. Just another lovely day at the community gardens.

You all should be embarrassed. You are responsible for ruining a city park, bike path, tennis courts, park shelter, splash pad and garden.

Visit the park unannounced - come and see for yourself what life is like in the park. One more thing. Rats. I am seeing rats scurry across the drive. Nice.

Mary Mussey
309-826-9891

From: juliechristinehughes <juliechristinehughes@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, July 11, 2021 10:45 AM

To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Reindahl Park

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

The homeless encampment has gotten out of control and is dangerous. There are daily fights, needles and pipes all over the place, trash everywhere. This is a city park, not a shelter. Do something about this, do your jobs. Enough is enough. My taxes pay for this park, and its so overrun, it can't be enjoyed.

From: Sharon Maas <sharon.j.maas@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, July 11, 2021 8:26 PM

To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Our neighborhood Park that is still pretty the rest is still a mess!

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

<https://www.amazon.com/photos/shared/7p786oqDQeuJGfjoH7MvRw.m7aIAy6iTXPBiBl6hQ2teG>

Sharon Maas

From: Diana Klang <helenmarie1919@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, July 12, 2021 2:30 PM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Cc: Okeefe, James <JOKeefe@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Fw: Reindahl Park homeless growing daily campground

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

Just forwarding to the 2 of you my message to our clueless mayor

Diana Klang
3822 Ridgeway Ave
Madison, WI 53704

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Diana Klang <helenmarie1919@yahoo.com>
To: SRhodes-Conway@cityofmadison.com <srhodes-conway@cityofmadison.com>
Cc: eknepp@cityofmadison.com <eknepp@cityofmadison.com>
Sent: Monday, July 12, 2021, 02:24:59 PM CDT
Subject: RE: Reindahl Park homeless growing daily campground

The mayor needs to get her head out of the clouds (a printable way to say it) regarding that disaster! It's growing on a daily basis and now, as a taxpaying homeowner (we pay your salaries!!) who lives on the last block of Ridgeway Ave which abuts the park and bike path, enough is enough!! They're camping under trees at the end of the path where it meets our street. Even the regular bike riders who used to ride by on a daily basis aren't coming by anymore because those homeless but vehicle owning people with money for gas and a car are parked right ON THE BIKE PATH.

A couple neighbors wanted to walk their leashed dogs (and they had hold of the leashes) through the park using said bike path but, as it was blocked, turned back after owner of a vehicle let his dogs out saying, oh s/he won't bite and oh, s/he bites; it doesn't matter if they were on a leash although they were but leash wasn't being held by their owner. ENOUGH IS ENOUGH! Those neighbors also saw bags of trash by the path, and there were hypodermic needles in that trash. That's unacceptable!

She needs to quit tying the hands of the police force and let them do their jobs. A neighbor called the police and they said they could do NOTHING!! WTH??? She needs to let the chief of police actually BE the chief of police and let him do his job. Oh wait...maybe she wants bloodshed and dead people when someone gets their knickers in a knot and starts shooting and the cops can't intervene with tear gas. Unacceptable. And by the way, as our city grows, should the police force. Fewer police can't properly do their jobs as the number of citizens here grow. No wonder the former police chief QUIT and he was a great guy.

She needs to let the parks director do his job too; oh wait...he can't because the park is filled with homeless people and was told to leave them alone. Or was that the cops she said to leave the homeless alone? WTH?? Totally unacceptable.

Do your job, clueless Ms Mayor! And let your employees do theirs too.

Diana Klang
3822 Ridgeway Ave
Madison, WI 53704

From: Fields, Debbie <DFields@cityofmadison.com>
Sent: Monday, July 12, 2021 2:54 PM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Phone message: Bob

Bob called on Monday, July 12, 2021, at 1:55pm. He lives near Reindahl Park and is deeply concerned about what's going on there. He said the tents are moving closer to the residential area, some as close as 100' away. There's one about 300' from his house now. People are driving and parking on the bike path. A neighbor of his who has walked in the park since 1980 was walking his dog there recently and encountered a man with a machete. Bob and a neighbor were walking their dogs in the park, and three dogs jumped out of a car that was parked on the bike path. One had a leash, but no one was holding the leash. A woman from the car said the first dog was fine but the other one bites. He's seen bags of trash with needles in them.

From: William Lien <charlie12@tds.net>
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 10:13 AM
To: Knepp, Eric <EKnepp@cityofmadison.com>
Cc: Okeefe, James <JOkeefe@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Halverson, Gary <district17@cityofmadison.com>; Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; Delores Harrison <deeh1942@hotmail.com>
Subject: Cars parking in the woods at Reindahl Park near the garden tool shed

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

For the most part, I have given up on any action being taken on the homeless encampment by anyone from the Madison Mayors office. When she says nothing can happen until a acceptable alternate site has been approved, I ask: What were the decision makers doing about a permanent solution for the TPE during the 20 months of the pandemic??? Or what were you doing from May 9th till the last council meeting about any alternative site??? Everyone involved gives local politics a bad name. Madison has that well deserved and earned reputation to discuss issues to death.

IF there was any leadership, the issue would have been taken care of by May 9th and we wouldn't be here today.

There was a Zoom meeting facilitated by Gary Halvorsen District 17 alder that was promised to have the mayor. Surprise, she sent a deputy mayor, who couldn't understand why the citizens were upset with lack of action from the mayors office.

Not showing at the one hour meeting said it all for us. I ask the mayor to come unannounced and walk through the bike trails where the tents are. The garbage in this section of the park is unsustainable and disgusting. Even though dumpsters are available, many cannot seem to get the garbage inside of them. The water department lawn was filled with discarded blankets, mattresses, and sleeping bags that had gotten wet.

Meantime, I am bringing to the attention of the Parks Department, who like the police, say they cannot and will not enforce any normal rules of conduct at the park.

Since the on duty Park Ranger doesn't answer the phone, I am writing to Mr Knepp, who wrote a blog confirming his commitment to Reindahl Park as a place for all citizens.

The encampment is to be in the woods on South of the community gardens. they of course now have RV's and cars in the shelter parking lot and the park lot.

Now there are cars cutting clearings in the woods on the north side of the gardens, near the tool shed so they can live in their cars in this narrow wooded area separating the park from adjacent housing and business areas. They told me they are clearing branches so they don't scratch their cars. They say they don't want to be with the other people in the encampment.

On the face of that, Since the police say they will not send a vehicle to ask them to move because they are not threatening anyone, I hope you find this logic as ridiculous as I do. This isn't a third world country where anyone can choose to cut down branches on park trees because they want to and no one will tell them that is not acceptable behavior.

Many of us gardeners thought the sewer project was a lot of false promises to mitigate our concerns and inconveniences, but now this whole encampment has brought folks from the entire Midwest, not just Madison homeless citizens.

The gardeners pay for our space to the city, and pay 100 percent of the water usage costs. It makes me mad to see the encampment bringing wheelbarrows to do their dishes and laundry in, wash their hair, take showers, and brush their teeth using our water hoses meant for watering the plants in our gardens. And then filling buckets to take back to their tents.

Again, the main purpose for this message is to ask the Parks department to NOT allow vehicle campers to park in the woods near the garden tool shed.

Bill Lien
harlie12@tds.net
608 345-7781

From: Eileen Karow <ekakarow@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 7:44 PM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Encampment at Reindahl Park

Dear Madison Alders,

My husband and I are asking you to follow through with moving the encampment of people at Reindahl Park. The people there have had many months of shelter in our neighborhood. It's time to find another area to house them. It has been a deterrent for many families to use the park and splash pad.

Thank you,

Eileen and Paul Karow

From: Reindahl Community Gardens <reindahlcommunitygardens@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, July 22, 2021 11:38 AM

To: Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; Knepp, Eric <EKnepp@cityofmadison.com>; Okeefe, James <JOKeefe@cityofmadison.com>; Halverson, Gary <district17@cityofmadison.com>; Rhodes-Conway, Satya V. <SRhodes-Conway@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Reindahl Community Garden Safety Concerns.

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

Everyone:

Once again there has been a violent incident at the homeless encampment next to Reindahl Community Garden. How much longer will it be before these types of incidents spill over into the garden itself? Is the city waiting until a child is injured at the Splash Pad or a gardener is accosted (or worse) before something is done to curb the ever increasing number of people at the encampment?

Not only is there a sprawling encampment to the immediate E of the garden which is now growing to include areas by the tennis courts and the Splash Pad, as well as several people with campers settling into the grassy areas between the woods and the Splash Pad. **Now there are people pitching tents and living in their cars in the area directly in front of the Gardens tool shed, on the W side of the garden under the trees along the berm.**

I have had several gardeners tell me that they are unwilling to go to the shed while there are people 'camping' in the immediate area.

Increasingly parents are refusing to bring their children to the garden for fear of negative encounters with residents of the homeless encampment. Also many of our older gardeners have concerns about being out in the garden by themselves.

Know that the City is "studying" this issue and is trying to come up with solutions, but while we wait for any tangible actions, why can't there be restrictions as to where in Reindahl Park camping is allowed? Otherwise, the whole park will be one giant campground before too long. The increasing sprawl is already interfering with Madison residents being able to use certain areas of the park as they have in the past.

The 'permitted' camping area should be limited to the area under the trees on the S end of the park to areas along E. Washington Ave. and over to the parking lot in front of the shelter area. No camping or living in cars should be allowed in any other areas of the park. I don't think having some restrictions as to where people can camp is too much to ask of our City leaders.

https://madison.com/wsj/news/local/crime-and-courts/man-stabbed-at-reindahl-park-homeless-encampment-police-say/article_500ce708-d8da-5db2-b2bf-94415c7c375b.html

Mark
Reindahl Community Coordinator
mawettergumweed@gmail.com

--

Reindahl Community Gardens
PO Box 14407
Madison WI 53708-0407
608-301-5674

From: Linda <rth6349@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 23, 2021 12:46 PM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Reindahl park.

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

July 1st an overdose, July 20th a stabbing to a man's neck. More cars and trailers coming in. A gardener noted a car from Texas, person cutting tree branches to make a secluded parking area near the gardens. A trailer was parked next to kids soccer playing area. Still garbage all over, even with huge dumpsters available. We need to pull together and stop this! Thank-you, Linda Roth

From: Marijane Curry <shermjane@live.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 24, 2021 8:08 PM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Reindahl Park

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

Dear Alderman and Mayor:

What is the status of the Reindahl Park? It is no longer being used by us community members because of the homeless population there. Older people and young adults with children are afraid to venture into this park.

What happen to the proposed community library that was in the planning stages to be built there?

Our east side neighborhood has been patient for over a year and a half and nothing seems to be resolved yet on this situation. Can people just take over a park and the city has no authority to remove the people?

This park should be returned to the people that live in the neighborhood. Please respond back and let me know what is going on there, because I am afraid to walk in the park and I had so many memories of just enjoying the trees in that park.

Marijane Curry
4613 Armistice Lane
Madison, WI 53704

From: Sharon Maas <sharon.j.maas@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 26, 2021 5:08 AM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: This is a note to get your act in gear.

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

Bennett shut your big mouth and the rest who think the same way it is the time to come to realization this is no way to live .Now a stabbing in the park on Tuesday night but we are assured the public is not in danger. You can not walk in the park ,the bike path is littered with garbage .The bike path can not be used! The people who use the community gardens are afraid to go in there. You encounter drunken ,drugs abuser that are robbing them blind.

While you set on your large ass doing nothing. Get with it is time to do your jobs .We now have rats moving into the neighborhood. The whole damn park is a health hazard.

Sharon Maas

From: davidhd@charter.net <davidhd@charter.net>
Sent: Monday, July 26, 2021 9:27 AM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: [All Alders] Reindahl Park

Recipient: All Alders

Name: DAVID ONSRUD
Address: 3833 Ridgeway ave., Madison, WI 53704
Email: davidhd@charter.net

Would you like us to contact you? Yes, by email

Message:

Please get the campers out of the park. They chose to be homeless, cheaper than paying rent.

FREE Camping.

We would like to use the park.

Not be bothered by persons that do not belong in the park.

More and more show up everyday.

WILL IT EVER STOP???

davidhd@charter.net

From: MB <mattbroph@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, July 26, 2021 11:23 AM

To: Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Okeefe, James <JOKeefe@cityofmadison.com>; Knepp, Eric <EKnepp@cityofmadison.com>; Halverson, Gary <district17@cityofmadison.com>; Alina Dima <alina.dima@hotmail.com>

Subject: Park Saftey Concerns

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

Hello,

I am a resident in the Reindahl park neighborhood and am writing again in concerns of our neighborhood's safety. As you know there was another stabbing in the park earlier this week due to the homeless encampment.

We live extremely close to the park - every night we hear screams and other strange noises - when we let our dog at night there are people drunk hanging around the residential areas - the campers have moved away from the central area and into all areas of the park - we've been harassed several times by people for money just walking in our neighborhood and had aggressive threats made towards us - there is a man living in a silver car that drives around giving the residents the middle finger - there have been several incidents of violence in our neighborhood which was RARE before this encampment was around - the community gardens are being picked clean by the park residents - the parking lots have become flooded with RVs and people sleeping in their vehicles.

There are so many issues with this and we are just waiting for things to blow up - again we aren't just park dwellers we actually live in the neighborhood and are directly affected by this.

How can this still be allowed? When will the city be taking action and protect its residents?

Thank you,
A concerned resident

From: Reindahl Community Gardens <reindahlcommunitygardens@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, July 26, 2021 8:05 PM

To: Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; Knepp, Eric <EKnepp@cityofmadison.com>; Okeefe, James <JOkeefe@cityofmadison.com>; Halverson, Gary <district17@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Rhodes-Conway, Satya V. <SRhodes-Conway@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Reindahl Community Garden - Health and Safety issue

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Everyone:

A major potential health issue is being created in Reindahl Community Garden by some members of the homeless encampment that the City established just several hundred yards to the E of the Garden.

Not only do the residents of the homeless encampment continue to use the Garden's water faucets to shower, do laundry, and presumably for personal consumption (although technically the water at the garden is non-potable).

But now residents of the homeless encampment are using the eastern end of the Garden as a public latrine. I get daily reports from Gardeners who find piles of human waste at the edge or IN THEIR PLOTS. And if people are defecating in the plots, I am sure they are using the same areas as a public urinal.



Human waste deposition and growing crops for human consumption are incompatible. Human fecal waste can spread any number of diseases, including Hepatitis A, Cryptosporidiosis, and a variety of worms (helminthes). In addition, there are Rotavirus, Norwalk Agent virus, and numerous others that can cause respiratory distress. I'm sure everyone is aware of the numerous recalls of foods because they have been contaminated with *Listeria*, *E. coli* and *Salmonella* all which can be spread through human fecal material.

Since the City has taken no concrete actions to curb the number of people occupying the homeless encampment and has failed to provide adequate toilet facilities (1 porta-potty) perhaps the Mayor, Deputy Mayors, and all Alderpersons would like to volunteer an hour or two per week for poop-patrol at the garden. I will be glad to set up a schedule and provide gloves and scooping tools.

If poop scooping doesn't interest you, then maybe you can be there when we try to disconnect Garden hoses that have been appropriated by residents of encampment to hook up to their shower shack. Most often there is a tense confrontation between residents of the encampment and gardeners, and many gardeners have been threatened with physical violence if we disconnect the hoses. Gardeners on the E end of the garden are having trouble watering their plots because all the faucets and hoses on that end are being used by residents of the camp.

I invite everyone who hasn't already been out to the Garden to come out for a visit. You can see the encampment for yourselves, and you can see firsthand the challenges having 40-50 people living in the immediate vicinity of the Garden presents to our gardeners trying to feed their families. Hopefully, this would make the next Common Council meeting discussion of these issues less abstract.

Please feel free to bring your children, parents, grandparents, or elderly relatives to visit as well. Maybe you can leave your relatives at the Garden for a couple hours and then see how 'comfortable' they feel having a large homeless encampment in their immediate vicinity. If they are lucky, they might get to see some naked people showering in the Garden's paths. Or maybe they will be accosted by someone from the camp panhandling for money and when denied any cash will curse and violently swear at them.

No one in power seems to mind that these are things Reindahl Gardeners must contend with every day.

Even if they don't get to experience all the daily 'joys' of gardening at Reindahl Community Garden this year, I'm sure it would be a great civics lesson, especially for children. They can see how rapidly a situation can spiral into complete chaos when Civil Authorities fail to enforce the rule of law and adopt a laissez-faire hands-off attitude to a problem instead of dealing with it when it was small and manageable.

How much longer do we have to tolerate the homeless encampment? While the City is 'studying' the situation **90+ Reindahl Garden families are facing immediate daily threats to their and their families' health and safety.**

The homeless encampment is not the 'they're not causing any harm' fairytale utopia that some people like to claim, it is a clear and escalating danger to anyone who wants to enjoy Reindahl Park.

I look forward to hearing from you and having you all come out for a visit and some scooping.

Mark

Reindahl Community Garden Coordinator

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P.S.: The Garden continues to pay for every gallon used by our gardeners and the entire homeless encampment since my repeated requests for the City to help pay our water bill have gone unanswered.

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