

March 30, 2009

VIA: Email to Brad Murphy (bmurphy@cityofmadison.com) and Mark Olinger (molinger@cityofmadison.com)

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RE: Southwest Planning Area: Shady Oak Neighborhood Plan

Dear Mark and Brad:

We are in receipt of Brian Grady's letter emailed Friday at 2:02pm announcing the speedy processing of your Shady Wood Neighborhood Development Plan. It was our understanding that this resolution would be tabled until we had a chance to assemble more information and meet with you again. As outlined to you in our letter to you dated **January 29, 2009** and in our meeting with you on **February 12th**, the City of Madison DRAFT Land Use Plan made available on for the first time on **January 12, 2009** and updated on **March 11, 2009** (and sent to us by Jed Sanborn on **March 16th**) is STILL of grave concern to us as the affected landowners identified below.

The speed with which the Shady Wood plan has moved has made it difficult, if not impossible, for us to speak with the Ice Age Trail people and others about our concerns and our suggestions. We want to speak with certain people who are much involved with the trail and have information and good ideas about how to accomplish the purpose of the trail. Unfortunately, these people have been traveling and we haven't yet had a chance to meet to discuss the feasibility of a plan for the trail which does not totally destroy the value of significant portions of our land. We are not aware of why it is so important to fast track this project. Many of us have owned our land for decades and we would have been amenable to discussions with the City and the Ice Age Trail people, had this been started before this year. We are interested in working to achieve an Ice Age Trail over our land and are not attempting to prevent this project. We agree with its principle, but the speed with which this is moving will prevent any dialogue or any consideration of any alternate route for the trail.

Again, for the record, collectively, the Shady Oak Neighbors have formally and repeatedly asked that you change this plan and work with us as landowners. As we've stated before, if you force us to move so quickly and refuse to allow us time to determine the "*highest and best use of our land*," we ask that you be more general in your plan. We ask that you change your permanent green space to conservation development and change your proposed ice age trail to run along property lines to minimize the negative impact on the remaining land. We disagree with your excessive designation of open space and parks and the need for multiple access points to the Ice Age Trail and we ask for a single connection. Each of us as landowners have met with

you individually and as a group and have voiced our concerns and **we have asked you to give us the time we need to work with advisors to determine what is, in fact, the “highest and best use for our land.”**

You have informed us on numerous occasions that once your plan lines are drawn and approved; it is very unlikely that they will be moved. We have been advised by several developers that it is of extreme importance that we are allowed to give input to the City before the plan is made part of the City of Madison’s Comprehensive Plan. As our land isn’t even in the City of Madison and not even slated for development for the foreseeable future, we believe that you should grant our request for more time. **Again, we come together as a group to formally request that you delay submitting the resolution that introduces your DRAFT Land Use Plan to the Common Council on Tuesday, March 31st.** We hereby request that you table the introduction of the resolution until we are able to determine “*the highest and best use for our land,*” *incorporate the proposed ice age trail connection and move forward to modify the March 11th DRAFT plan.* Please advise us if you are willing to allow us the time that we need. If you will not, we ask you to inform us specifically the reasons why you are unwilling to do so.

Thank you for your cooperation and assistance with regard to this important matter.

Shady Oak Neighbors

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