

## Kaniewski, Adam B

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**From:** Betty Chewning <betty.chewning@wisc.edu>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 1, 2024 10:08 AM  
**To:** Kaniewski, Adam B  
**Subject:** Comments for the Garver North Plat meeting

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Hi Adam – I had to leave the meeting last night at 6:40. I raised my hand to speak right away, but since the opportunity didn't come early enough I wanted to send you my thoughts here. Could you please include them in the comments collected for the meeting?

“Many of us have long tramped the Garver North Plat and appreciated the unique natural wetland space and its ongoing potential as a source of delight in birds, animals, and natural plants. This is a rare space in the City of Madison. I strongly urge you not to add a “natural park”, a bike course, a parking lot. Instead see this special space for what it is. It can be the intact natural space people watch the Northern Lights, the place people see a city actually plant and support wetland vegetation that flourishes and nurtures the animal and bird population. For some reason, potential for this unique wetland space has been undervalued by the Parks Department. Do not diminish the wetlands but revitalize it. Birds and wildlife need conservation areas, pollinator habitats. We would value this so much. Do not diminish it by one inch! Make it a model for everyone to admire and you will be amazed at the positive publicity and accolades that will come your way. Talk to Si Widstrand. He will assure you that is exactly what we had decided so many years ago. Talk to OBS former directors of plant planning and they will tell you the same. You are doing something different than was discussed and agreed to before.

Second, you alluded to Olbrich Botanical Society wanting more parking. OBS currently blockades people from driving through their parking lot to Garver. They literally try to block flow through traffic. The parking you are adding does nothing for OBS. You already added parking for OBS right across the street in Olbrich Park in the expansion of concrete throughout Olbrich Park. You never mentioned either of these things. There is plenty of street parking that goes unused during events. I have pictures if you want to see them.

Third, I found it ironic that you would add a “natural playground” in this space that should be cherished as a much larger natural walking habitat. We have the potential for a large, natural walking park which is far more valuable than putting some logs and rocks in a space and calling it a “natural park”. This is particularly unsettling given how the Parks Department unannounced took out our Olbrich Park playground. We were told this was for budgetary reasons. Now we will get a “natural playground” cheaper to maintain and lacking the equipment our children want.....unless SASY can raise the money for it. How much will the natural playground in the Garver North Plat cost? Just curious.

Fourth, the bike course is really a poor idea for many reasons. Inviting the bikes in means they will go everywhere. It is naïve to think otherwise. .... picnic, natural park, wetlands. That's what mountain bikers do. Please, please do not do this. It is naïve to think otherwise. I have watched them go across the effigy mounds in front of my house. They don't care about boundaries; everything is a challenge welcomed.

Fifth, Over the years I've participated in a number of planning sessions in our neighborhood for Garver and the North Plat. We fought for the green plan for the Garver building and we won. That vision did not come from the City staff. It did not come from Parks. It came from Alder Marsha Rummel and then SASYNA worked together with Marsha to make this vision seen as viable by the city. It was a lot of work. We never planned more parking than

what is there now, nor anything in this new plan. Adding the picnic area, playground, bike course simply adds to the burden on parking. Why would you do that? It seems the parks department is turning toward an isolated patchwork “recreational approach” of planning for specific user groups. Where is the big picture and vision? Also, where is participatory planning?

There has never been a time on this planet when we needed more of a big vision. Aldo Leopold pointed out that because a space looks empty on a map does not mean it isn't used. Far from it. The protection, improvement and preservation of large green space holds the promise of education, enjoyment, and preservation for plants, species and humanity.

Be well.

Betty Chewning

## Kaniewski, Adam B

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**From:** Hiller, Anthony  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 29, 2024 1:54 PM  
**To:** Kaniewski, Adam B  
**Subject:** Olbrich north parcel

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Hello Adam, sorry to say I will not be able to attend the meeting tonight. I only g g ave two comments to add: first off, I love that parks are developing mtb trails/skills development into the plans. Super necessary to provide both great recreation but also critical in providing access to a sport. Secondly, my personal opinion would be to make the additional parking only half the size or cut it out all together to enlarge games area or event area. Appreciate being able to add my thoughts to the discussion. Thanks for managing this project, Anthony

## Kaniewski, Adam B

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**From:** gordon olson <gordonrobertolson@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 20, 2024 11:01 AM  
**To:** Kaniewski, Adam B  
**Subject:** Public Comment Olbrich Park -- North Parcel

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Hi Adam,

I would like to request less surface area dedicated to car parking. Impermeable surfaces have significant environmental impacts and the majority of your survey respondents (59.81%) requested fewer than 50 spaces, with the majority of those requesting a lot less.

It makes me sad that more space will be devoted to parking than picnicking, or a play area.

It seems appropriate to have parking to supplant the (significant) additional parking at Garver to make it accessible for people, but given the significant costs, environmental impact and loss of recreational space of surface parking, it would be nice to see the parks division prioritize recreational uses when allocating space in the parcel.

Thanks for your time,  
Gordon Olson

## Kaniewski, Adam B

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**From:** john steines <jsteines@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 29, 2024 3:49 PM  
**To:** Kaniewski, Adam B  
**Cc:** Lissa McLaughlin; Betty Chewning; Doug Johnson; Sarah White; Michael D. Barrett; Pamela Blair; Cathy Stafford  
**Subject:** Comments on Garver North Plat

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Adam - below are my comments for the Feb 29 meeting & project proposal feedback - Garver North Plat. I have been asked by several individuals to read some of this at the meeting this evening, and It looks like I can now attend. I prefer to duplicate these prepared comments in case I am not able to speak/attend last minute. Submitted Comments as follows:

I have been visiting the wetlands at the junction of the two branches of Starkweather Creek for 25 years because that is a best place locally to view Northern Lights and a night sky. One thing we all lose in the current plans for North Plat is the **positive function of the soil mounds that effectively block light and sound intrusion from Garver activities into the North Plat wetland areas**. These Garver-adjacent uses can only be predicted to increase, and that noise and light intrusion will multiply.

Were the mounds shaped, maintained, & planted with a variety of native species, they could maintain their current beneficial block to light & noise. Just as the Dixon Greenway has been adopted by local residents who are placing high quality native species in that corridor, these mounds can be gently sculpted into habitat-landscape art showcases that themselves become destinations. They can also serve as food forest habitat. Importantly, they serve an educational tool on the historical intrusion of humans in altering habitat landscape to suit non-habitat needs. That is Garver site history.

Teach about 'transformed' habitat in such a way that the important functionality of this sound/light block is preserved. Finally, the multitude of all uses will make the mounds much less desirable for unwanted activities.

John Steines, Chicago Ave, Madison, WI.

## Kaniewski, Adam B

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**From:** Tim Kubala <tim.r.kubala@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 8, 2024 8:25 PM  
**To:** Engineer; Tim Kubala; Madison Parks; Streets; Kaniewski, Adam B  
**Subject:** garver north parcel

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It seems that representatives of the city have a pervasive need to develop 'vacant' land that more often than not embellish private investments to the further expense to city taxpayers. For instance addition of city parking spaces that augment private, originally designed inadequate numbers of surface parking spaces. Where does it say the city is required to enhance the privately owned living units and businesses with hardscape parking spaces. How about the novel idea that the profit nature of the concerned business should mandate original and adequate parking capacity rather than an overflow relief measure. The confused nature of drivers becoming walkers to get to the cramped garver building becomes a pedestrian safety issue extending back out to fair oak intersection. A further illustration of the city subsidizing apartment units and private investments as affectations like the incessant attempts at imposing a dog facility on a coherent community that strongly stated its case in favor of maintaining the character of the existing and affected parkland, only a creeks width away. The need to continually develop empty spaces is not implicit and any notion in that direction should be engaged with the utmost caution and introspection. Spending significant segments of the park budget on native plantings are steps in the correct direction. Utilize some of the free thinking madisonians take so much pride and apply it to this project

with new and innovative ideas, breaking loose from the typical paradigm, separating this project from conventional decision making. Preserve the north parcel as a example of urban wildness and earn the merits of the madison community as innovators and farsighted parkland managers.

The north parcel park development layouts lack sophistication. It essentially a license to mow the entire acreage including right up to the waters edge . The truth be told this effort to reintroduce the dog park is reliant on the mostly transient population of tenants of the new high rise apartment complexes (most of whom have shared this far oak community for a few months). Residences that are hardly conducive to knowing your neighbor down the hall much less to the activity of building community relationships with owner occupants, many residents of better than ¼ century. City procedure presents city proposals by way of public meetings whose plan is all but decided before any public input meeting ever happens and the options differ very little. 2 – 4 foot berms are dysfunctional as for noise and sound abatement. As for an creative, unique alternative would briefly read something like this; rather establish a serpentine ridge system at an 8 – 10 foot height, that would capture the entire width of the parcel at a latitude tangent to the arcing paved path, containing two egress breaks in the berm that connect to board walks on the north side as is necessary to complete a walking loop. Just an idea only slightly more sophisticated than the standing design. many times more enjoyable /functional to exposing the pedestrian explorer to ephemeral wetland and long marsh grass habitats.

so take care in considering the consequences of your decisions, the destruction of the character of a wonderful ecosystem juxtapositioned with the current mania of apartment complex construction based on ten

year projection, without a low rental, affordable housing presence. Take a deep breath then take a paddle up Starkweather to see what I;m talking about.