

From: jacobslm@sbcglobal.net [mailto:jacobslm@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Sunday, May 13, 2007 10:09 PM
To: Mayor Tom Barrett
Cc: Grau, Janet; D'Amato, Michael; ann@protectmilwaukeeiver.org; 'Ken Leinbach'
Subject: RE: Milwaukee's River Corridor

Dear Mayor Barrett,

I will be unable to attend the City Plan Commission meeting on Monday, May 14th. I **strongly support** creation of the Milwaukee River Greenway Corridor..Interim Study Overlay Zone and the creation of a study plan for the Overlay Zone.

I have read the Vision Paper produced by the Milwaukee River Work Group and attended an informational meeting at the Urban Ecology Center recently. I can see only positive outcomes for an overlay district which will ultimately oversee future development of the Milwaukee River Corridor from the North Ave. Bridge north to Silver Spring Dr.

Born in Milwaukee, I have spent many summer days with my friends and family in parks along the Milwaukee River. I've hiked, fished, relaxed, gone sledding, rode my bike and generally enjoyed the natural area of Lincoln and Estabrook Parks. I was able to be adventurous and daring by exploring the forest trails, climb rocky outcroppings and skate on the river.

Now I live in the Riverwest neighborhood. I've owned my home, a duplex, over 20years and live just one & 1/2 blocks from the river. I have watched, with a mix of sadness, alarm, regret and resignation, the development along the river, encroaching right up to my doorstep with the recent building of a university dorm along North Ave and the Milwaukee River. There had been promises during the Jewel/Osco meetings that the development would end there...yet again, the neighbors had been disappointed with lack of follow through in planning.

We have an opportunity now to make a difference in the quality of life in the City of Milwaukee. A group of knowledgeable, dedicated, visionary folks have come together to plan for the future of the Milwaukee River corridor. The concept of a "View Shed" is extraordinary, ensuring the beautiful view and experience of being on the river and seeing only natural elements around you. Humans need the calming effect of natural areas and the migratory birds, fish and other wild life need it to survive. The idea of the Trust Fund is very reasonable, it will ensure funds for future maintenance of the plan without dependence on public budgetary policies. The concept of a consortium of stakeholders who will oversee the continuance of this "Central Park" is also a beautiful concept. This group has brought a positive, communicative and collaborative approach to the planning process.

Please encourage the City Plan Commission to endorse this recommendation from the Milwaukee River Work Group. They are the ones who can bring together the entities that are needed to work together for the good of all.

Thank You
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