

From: Jessica Wirth [mailto:j.wirth@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Thursday, May 10, 2007 1:33 PM
To: D'Amato, Michael; Hamilton, Ashanti; McGee Jr., Michael
Cc: Franitza, Al; Jessica Wirth
Subject: Milwaukee River Greenway Corridor Interim Study Overlay Zone (IS)

3254 North Gordon Place
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53212
May 10, 2007

Alderman Michael D'Amato
Alderman Ashanti Hamilton
Alderman Michael McGee, Jr.

Dear Sirs:

I am very much in favor of the vision (set forth in the recent paper by the Milwaukee River Work Group, "Milwaukee's Central Park: Land and Water") to preserve the natural quality of the Milwaukee River corridor between the North Avenue dam site and Silver Spring Drive. I live on North Gordon Place adjacent to Pleasant Valley Park, which is a beautiful woods running along the river on its west side. It is the presence of that woods and the river that convinced my husband and me to buy our house here 35 years ago. We celebrated with great pleasure the removal of the North Avenue dam and the corresponding revitalization of the river in the past several years.

I want the character of the river corridor to remain as natural as possible. I also believe that the concept of "viewshed" embraced by the vision paper is an excellent one. It is important not only that the river corridor itself be kept as natural as possible, but also that the views seen while in the river corridor remain views of a natural environment, not a built environment.

I thus ask you to support whatever zoning restrictions are needed, such as limiting the height of buildings near the river greenway as well as setback restrictions, to ensure that the "viewshed" in the river corridor is as unblemished by city evidence as possible.

More immediately, I ask you to support the ordinances (File Nos. 070127 and 070124) creating the Milwaukee River Greenway Corridor Interim Study Overlay Zone and creating the study plan for that area. My property is within the area affected by these ordinances, and I would like to see the Interim Overlay Zone put into place.

I have one concern with paragraph (g) of the draft I have seen of document no. 070124: Paragraph (g) makes provision for exempting from overlay zoning scrutiny development projects that have begun the development review process. I would urge that exemption of projects already in development review be minimized or, preferably, eliminated altogether. It is best to subject as much new development to the guidelines of the overlay zone as soon as feasible.

Sincerely,

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