



Department of Planning & Community & Economic Development

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October 10, 2007

To: Business, Property Owners and Residents in the East Rail Corridor

Subject: Mayor's Central Park Design and Implementation Task Force

As Chair of the Task Force, I write to introduce the Central Park Design and Implementation Task Force and, more importantly, to seek your input. Earlier this year, the Mayor and Common Council charged our 12 member *ad hoc* committee with answering a series of fundamental questions regarding the feasibility, concept design, implementation, financing and governance of the park, as proposed by the Urban Open Space Foundation (UOSF).

The UOSF plan calls for an approximately 17-acre park in the area between Blair Street and the Yahara River, and Williamson Street and East Washington Avenue. The proposed plan requires relocating the Union Pacific Rail line that runs through the park between East Washington Avenue and South Livingston approximately 280 feet to the north.

The Task Force is interested in hearing from all parties who may be impacted by the proposed development or who have special interests or needs to be considered. We invite you to participate in the process and encourage you to share your ideas and comments with the Task Force. There are several ways in which you can follow the process or provide input.

1. Attend a Central Park Design and Implementation Task Force or Subcommittee meeting. Times and locations are posted on the Task Force website at: <http://www.cityofmadison.com/planning/centralpark.html>.
2. Call Mark Olinger, Director, City Department of Planning & Community & Economic Development, who is staffing the Task Force, at 266-4635 or send an email to molinger@cityofmadison.com.
3. Contact Bill Barker, chair of the Task Force, at 238-1219 or send email to barker.bill@gmail.com
4. Access minutes of Task Force and/or Sub-Committee meetings, as well as extensive related documentation, on the Task Force website.
5. Attend one or more of the public meetings that will be hosted by the Task Force.

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6. Submit your questions or comments in writing to:
Central Park Design & Implementation Task Force
C/o Mark Olinger, Director
Department of Planning & Community & Economic Development
Municipal Building – Room LL-100
City of Madison
215 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Madison, WI 53703

Prior to reporting our findings and plan recommendations to the City Council, we are committed to a thorough review and evaluation of the Central Park development plan via an open and participatory process. Our work is at a relatively early stage and your input is very important in helping us frame the project within the context of the corridor.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact Mark Olinger or me. Thank you for your help as we move forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Barker", with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Bill Barker, Chair
Central Park Design & Implementation Task Force