August 2, 2011

The Honorable Paul R. Soglin, Mayor of Madison, Wisconsin

Office of the Mayor
210 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd, Room 403, City-County Building
Madison, WI, 53703-3345

Dear Mayor Soglin,

Thank you for expressing interest in the Safe Access to Lake Monona at Hudson Beach issue. We have attached some information regarding this issue for your review.

1. Photo of Hudson Beach made on May 19, 2011.
2. User group photos.
3. User groups defined and the Safe Access issue.
4. Safe Access: A proposed sequence and important elevations.
5. Existing side view of culvert at Hudson Beach.
6. Side view of proposed stairs and railing at Hudson Beach.
7. Proposed stair and railing locations: a topographic map.
8. Matthew Miller’s Presentation to SASY Council -- May 12, 2011.
9. SASY Neighborhood Association Council’s letter of support – June 1, 2011.

The Friends of Hudson Park group has been working for improved safe access to Lake Monona at Hudson Beach since 1999 without satisfactory results.

We would like to invite Your Honor to an on-site visit to Hudson Beach at a time that is convenient. We hope that we could schedule such a visit within the month if at all possible. We are open to meeting with you or staff regarding our proposal for safe access to Lake Monona at Hudson Beach.

Sincerely,

Matthew, Bill, and John

Matthew B. Miller, PhD, Professional Soil Scientist
Bill White, Friends of Hudson Park
John Steines, Communications Coordinator, SASY Neighborhood Association Council

cc: Alder Marsha Rummel, Debbie Fields, City of Madison Common Council
Kay Rutledge, Kevin Briske, City of Madison, Parks Division
Rob Phillips, City of Madison, Engineering Division
Katie Crawley, Monica Sundal, City of Madison, Office of the Mayor
Hudson Beach, 2713 Lakeland Avenue, City of Madison, Wisconsin
Many User Groups Require Safe Access to Lake Monona at Hudson Beach
Safe Access to Lake at Hudson Beach

Lake Access is used year around by many user groups:

- In winter Lake Access is used by skaters, walkers, cross-country skiers, star-gazers, and for gatherings.
- The rest of the year the Lake Access is used by fishers, waders, swimmers, canoes, kayakers, bird watchers, and for learning and playing by youths, adults, and elders.

Safe Access Issue:

- Existing paths are steep and existing railing is in disrepair, making year-around access unsafe.
- Permanent re-construction of Hudson Beach uncertain due to economy and design issues.

Proposed Safe Access Solution:

- Existing 5-foot diameter culvert (previously used for storage when the beach had a lifeguard) is best choice for location of stairs.
- Minimally destructive of present rock-wall configuration (maintain structural integrity of wall).
- Culvert is about 12 feet into bank so less soil has to be excavated to insert stairs.
- Culvert has to be removed in future anyway, is currently an eyesore and an attractive nuisance.
- All work would be above the ordinary high water mark, so less permitting is needed.
Safe Access to Lake Monona at Hudson Beach

A Proposed Sequence:
1. Design, Notifications, Permits (Ho-Chunk Nation and DNR)
3. Remove top stones then culvert with backhoe.
4. Insert retention for sidewalls, railing anchors and gravel fill.
5. Insert stairs slabs and railing. Backfill around side of stairs.
7. Attach railing to existing rock and new posts.

Lake level on May 19, 2011 (photo) was 844.88 feet, NAVD 1988 (pre-2007).

Important Elevations
(NAVD88, pre-2007) feet above mean sea level
and feet relative to City Datum of 845.48 = 0.00’

Proposed Stair Elevations (18-inch steps)

- Top: 853.48 +8.00
- Bottom: 849.40 +3.00

Lake Monona

- Historic high (6/16/2008): 847.66 +2.18
- 100-year flood: 847.50 +2.02

Ordinary High Water Mark: 845.62 +0.14
City datum: 845.48 0.00

1979 DNR Target Lake Levels

- Summer Max: 845.00 -0.48
- Summer Min: 844.50 -0.98
- Winter Min: 842.00 -3.48

Source: March 21, 2011. Topographic Survey of Hudson Park Shoreline, City of Madison Parks Division and Dane County Website.
Existing Side View of Hudson Beach

Source of elevations: March 21, 2011 Topographic Survey of Hudson Park Shoreline, City of Madison Parks Division and Dane County Website. Top of culvert = 6.18 feet. City Datum = 0.00 feet = 845.48 feet amsl. Elevations are NAVD88 (pre-2007).
Top view of a 2’ x 4’ x 0.5’ Limestone step, 1.5’ exposed.

Side view of 3 stacked steps. Each step 0.5’ thick.

Three steps from above. Arrows point to 0.5’ spaces for sidewall retention and anchoring railing.

Materials:
- 12 – Limestone steps 2’ x 4’ x 0.5’
- ~ 100’ 1.5-inch diameter steel pipe, welded & make railing 2.5’ above steps.
- Sidewall retainers, railing anchors, gravel fill.

Source of elevations: March 21, 2011 Topographic Survey of Hudson Park Shoreline, City of Madison Parks Division.
Proposed Stair and Railing Locations

Source: March 21, 2011 Topographic Survey of Hudson Park Shoreline, City of Madison Parks Division. Elevation is feet relative to City Datum NAVD88 (pre-2007).
May 10, 2011

To: SASY Neighborhood Association and the Friends of Hudson Park

From: Matthew Miller, PhD, PSS 245-3995, and the Hudson Beach Working Group

Re: A Low-cost Temporary Solution for Safe Hudson Beach Access

Problem: Present ramp to beach can be slippery when wet or icy. Present railing is in dis-repair. The Hudson Park Community needs a safe all-weather access (stairs and railing) installed immediately to ensure safe access to the lake.

**Temporary Solution to Existing Safe Access Problem at Hudson Beach**

The permanent reconstruction of Hudson Beach will take considerable time for design, permits, fund-raising, bidding, and implementation of the plan. The Hudson Park community needs immediate temporary solutions while the permanent design solution is assembled.

A. STAIRS and RAILING: Presently, there are no stairs to the lake surface at the Beach. The existing unsafe railing is in dis-repair and of insufficient length for safe usage. New stairs and railing will provide safe community access to the lake for waders, swimmers, canoes, kayaks and in winter -- walking, skating, and skiing.

Photo 1. Five-foot diameter culvert formerly used by the lifeguards for storage. The culvert is about 12-feet long into the soil. Upon removal of the culvert, some pre-fab concrete or steel stairs can be inserted into the void with minimal disturbance of existing soil. An additional railing can be attached to the existing stone wall (left of culvert on photo) for improved safe winter access to the ice. May 8, 2011.
1 June 2011

TO:
City of Madison Parks Department, Alder Marsha Rummel, Hudson Beach Working Group

The SASY Neighborhood Association council has heard a presentation by Matt Miller (in conjunction with Hudson Beach Working group) regarding issues of concern at Hudson Beach. The SASY council is in favor of finding a solution for safer beach access in a timely manner, and we urge our Alder to work with the Madison Parks Department staff and the Hudson Beach Working group to facilitate this work.

The SASY Council is aware that the Hudson Beach working group has been discussing and addressing issues there for many years. At this point we do not endorse any one idea or design solution, but we do encourage working toward a solution as soon as possible. We look forward to reviewing workable design alternatives very soon.

Respectfully,

Lou Host-Jablonski
Chair, SASY (Schenk-Atwood-Starkweather-Yahara Neighborhood Association)