

From: [Nancy Moore](#)
To: [Krohn, Margaret](#)
Subject: Support Amendment EANR-C-01: San Damiano
Date: Tuesday, October 27, 2020 10:08:51 AM

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Meg -

My name is Nancy Moore and I am privileged to serve as an Alderperson in Monona.

I, first, want to thank Board Supervisor, Sarah Smith, for offering and championing capital budget amendment EANR-C-01, earmarking \$2M in support of the purchase of the property known as San Damiano, located at 4123 Monona Drive. I further want to thank the Environment, Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee for their prudent and enthusiastic support of the Amendment last week, including many members of that Committee signing on as Co-sponsors.

San Damiano possesses extraordinary cultural, historic, conservation and recreational value. I have been the Alder leading the effort to preserve it as a public asset since its current owners, the Norbertine Novitiate, announced their intention to sell in early 2020. I've spent countless hours delving into each of those values and even more on the property itself.

My investment (literally and figuratively) and passion for retaining this property for public use has only grown. But far more important, I have come to understand that this iconic property should be more than a City of Monona Park; it deserves to be a predominantly recreational, *Lake Monona* destination for all in the area - and those visiting from beyond - to enjoy.

In this assessment, I am far from alone. I have walked the property with dozens of individuals and potential wider-community, organizational partners, among them, Bill Quackenbush, Cultural Resources Manager of the Ho-Chunk Nation, James Tye of Clean Lakes Alliance, Mike Strigel of the Aldo Leopold Nature Center, and Matt Reetz of Madison Audubon. Every last individual and organization has been in awe; this property is that special, that epic.

The Northeast corner of San Damiano also abuts the Lake Edge wet storm water detention basin, which was developed in partnership with the City of Madison. Indeed, the City of Monona gave up parkland to construct the basin. Given the size of the area it serves and the substantial increases in rain volume, engineering reports reflect the need to increase its size to further protect Lake Monona. Hence the inclusion of storm water management and related infrastructure in the amendment.

As Chair of Monona's Plan Commission, it might be easier to take a different stance. Surely, the taxing potential if developed would be grand. But there is nothing in our Comprehensive Plan that calls for the development of more high-end housing for a chosen few. And all we know that a very small fraction of those residing, working in or visiting Dane County have the privilege of lake access were it not for our public parks.

I often refer to Monona as "the little engine that could." But fully preserving San Damiano as a public asset will take more than this village, this City.

I urge the Dane County Personnel and Finance Committee to approve Amendment EANR-C-01 and join Monona in this truly legacy project.

Thank you for your consideration.

All the best,

Nancy Moore, Alderperson
City of Monona