



Joleen Stinson, Parks Director
Laura M. Hicklin, LWRD Director
Melissa Agard, Dane County Executive

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dane County Park Commission

FROM: Joleen Stinson, Parks Director

DATE: June 25, 2025

RE: Request for Acceptance of Donated Sculpture from the Harry Whitehorse International Wood Sculpture Festival

The Harry Whitehorse International Wood Sculpture Festival has offered to donate a sculpture that was previously on display at Olbrich Park. The piece is constructed primarily of wood and includes symbolic elements—such as a carved water drop and spheres—that were treated to resist weathering and retain their visual contrast as the surrounding natural wood darkens with age.

Staff have reviewed this opportunity and are supportive of accepting the donation. Given the sculpture's theme and natural appearance, a shoreline location was deemed most appropriate. There was consensus among staff that Fish Camp County Park, located on Lake Kegonsa, would be a fitting location for this piece.

Installation & Maintenance:

- Dane County Parks will coordinate with The Harry Whitehorse International Wood Sculpture Festival to complete the installation.
- Exact siting within Fish Camp County Park is still to be determined.
- The sculpture comes with a small interpretive sign that shares the meaning and story of the piece.
- Periodic maintenance (applying Osmo UV Protection Oil to the treated elements every two years) will be required.
- The Friends of Lake Kegonsa Society (FOLKS), the volunteer group that supports Fish Camp County Park, has expressed support for the installation and may be willing to assist with ongoing care.

Recommendation:

Staff recommend that the Park Commission formally accept the sculpture donation and approve its installation at Fish Camp County Park, with final placement and maintenance logistics coordinated by Dane County Parks staff in collaboration with FOLKS.

Photos of the sculpture are attached for reference.





