

Lake Monona Waterfront – Master Plan Update

July 24, 2023

Monona Terrace Lecture Hall

1 John Nolen Drive, Madison, WI

Welcome everyone,

Thank you for joining us this evening.

The focus of tonight's gathering is to provide an update on the Lake Monona Waterfront plan process. The planning initiative seeks to provide a visionary, inclusive, and environmentally focused master plan for Madison's foremost public lakefront. The planning area spans from Law Park, across the John Nolen Drive causeway, to the northern portion of Olin Park, and includes 1.7 miles of shoreline and 17 acres of public open space.

The agenda for tonight begins with a ½-hour presentation by the design team, followed by a Q&A session, and then we'll move to the adjacent room just across the hall for an open house.

We are now in the second phase of plan development, the first phase being the design challenge held last fall. The challenge involved the selection of three professional planning teams to prepare master plan options for the Waterfront. The challenge captured the interest of planning firms at the national and international level, with 14 teams providing their qualifications to participate in the competition. Lake Monona Waterfront Ad-hoc Committee, the decision-making body for plan development, narrowed the list of applicants to three teams, who then prepared plan options that were presented at public event in January.

After the team presentations, the committee evaluated the plan submissions with regard to the guiding principles for the planning initiative, public comments and input received, and each team's performance during the first phase.

Per the Committee's thorough evaluation, the Sasaki team was selected to proceed in the next phase of master plan development. Since then, the team has been diligently working the committee in reviewing and distilling the received public input, and have met with a wide range of project stakeholders to gain a deeper understanding of all the considerations involved.

Tonight's presentation is an in-progress "snap shot" of anticipated master plan refinements based on this work. We hope to gather further input, with the intent to provide an updated master plan to the Common Council later this fall.

On behalf of the Madison Parks Division, I want to thank the Mayor, Alder Verveer, Alder Evers, Alder Knox, and former Alder Sherri Carter. Your willingness to engage and support this planning endeavor is central to its success. Thank you.

I also want to thank the members of the Lake Monona Waterfront Ad-hoc Committee. You continue to set the standard for dedication and thoughtful consideration. Your guidance has led us to where we are this evening.

We also would not be here without the generous contribution of time and support by the Friends of Nolen Waterfront. The Friends were our co-sponsors for the design challenge that kicked this effort off, and their continued support is instrumental in creating a visionary master plan for the waterfront.

A quick note on what you are about to see: Master plans are conceptual in nature. They set the vision and scope for future projects. The plans shared tonight offer a forward approach on how Madison can restore its connection with Lake Monona. This is our opportunity to reimagine the possibilities for the Lake Monona waterfront.

And, without further delay, I'd like to turn the podium over the Sasaki team for their presentation.