

From: [Justin Nickels](#)
To: [Paul Braun](#); [Jennifer Bartz](#)
Subject: FW: External: re: Neighborhood Project
Date: Tuesday, May 28, 2024 9:50:36 AM

From: Sheryle Lyman <sherylelyman@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2024 11:57 AM
To: Justin Nickels <jnickels@manitowoc.org>; Bill Schlei <bschlei@manitowoc.org>; Todd Reckelberg <treckelberg@manitowoc.org>; Brett Norell <BNorell@manitowoc.org>; Tim Boldt <tboldt@manitowoc.org>; Eric Sitkiewitz - D6 <esitkiewitz@manitowoc.org>; William DeBaets <WDeBaets@manitowoc.org>; James Brey - D4 <jbrey@manitowoc.org>; Michael Cummings <mcummings@manitowoc.org>; Chad Beeman <cbeeman@manitowoc.org>
Subject: External: re: Neighborhood Project

You don't often get email from sherylelyman@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Friends,

I am Sheryle Lyman, a new resident of Manitowoc. I moved here this past July from Florida to enjoy my retirement in the north. My husband, Daniel, who is not yet retired, was called to pastor Faith Lutheran Church in Valders. We chose to look for a new start in "your neck of the woods" because we chose to escape the heat/humidity of Florida and its growing unwelcoming culture.

I am a retired Registered Nurse (50 years), a retired Presbyterian (PCUSA) minister (29 years), and a retired Marriage and Family Therapist (12 years). Early on I used my nursing career to move around the country and explore its marvelous diversity of geography, population and culture. I have lived in communities where the people were welcoming and helpful to the less fortunate around them, as well as communities that were "gated", literally walling themselves off from those they feared. I have worked at shelters and halfway houses, and given counseling to folks struggling to rebuild their lives. I have studied and shared passages from the sacred texts of all major religions that uphold the belief that to practice hospitality to the stranger or less fortunate opens "the gate to heaven." I have assisted in surgeries to amputate fingers, toes, ear tips and noses due to skin damage incurred when unsheltered folks were exposed to the elements. Of all those experiences, there was nothing worse than sitting with someone who anticipated the tragic loss of a loved one who had lost their way. As you can well imagine, to fear that a loved one may not be able to access basic life sustaining help when needed is the worst fear imaginable.

I understand the fears that I heard expressed at the open meeting on 5/22 by homeowners in the immediate area of the proposed Neighborhood. But I don't believe that those fears are justified in the absence of evidence that their property values will decrease. My own experience speaks to this doubt. My mom lived next door to a halfway house in her small town in rural Florida, and after her passing that property was sold for a price comparable to those more distant from that resource. (How did she overcome her own fears for her safety? By embracing the halfway house residents as neighbors and getting to know them.)

There are so many ways that we can gage the greatness of a country and its communities: by

the GNP, the educational level, the amount of crops they produce, etc.. Ghandi, Emerson, and Jimmy Carter all pointed to the true measure of a society: how the "least among us" - the vulnerable, the helpless, those in need - are treated.

Friends, this opportunity before you may not present itself again for some time:

1. The leaders who have gathered to put this together - their collected experience and diverse foci, have created an expertise that demands our respect and attention. We need to listen to them!
2. The building itself seems well suited to its proposed use, and with some alteration will be ideal.
3. Its location within a neighborhood will be very therapeutic for residents, providing the feeling of belonging within the community, rather than set apart in an institutional type environ.
4. Its location will provide residents with access to services and transportation to work, downtown services, healthcare and education.
5. And right now, community support, though not unanimous, is clearly decisively positive.

I urge you all to be supportive of The Neighborhood initiative.

I thank you for your time to read my email. I truly love my new home, Manitowoc, and hope to remain proud of her as she moves forward establishing safe and graceful care for all of those within her community.

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