

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE: April 21, 2017

TO: Supervisor Theo Lipscomb, Chair, County Board of Supervisors

FROM: James Tarantino, Economic Development Director, Department of Administrative Services

SUBJECT: Informational Report Related to the Wauwatosa Life Sciences District Comprehensive Plan

REQUEST

There is no request at this time; this report is for informational purposes only.

REPORT

The City of Wauwatosa is leading a planning process with the goal of updating their comprehensive land use plan for the area referred to as the County Grounds. This plan is envisioned to apply to the period of 2017 through 2047 and address future growth in development and infrastructure needs from the Highway 100 corridor through the Historic Village center. The City has begun referring to the four quadrant County Grounds as the "Life Sciences District" as a reference to the significant medical research and economic activity in that defined area.

As stated in the City's most recent draft of the plan, "Much of the impetus for this Plan came from the ongoing parallel effort within the Milwaukee Regional Medical Center (MRMC) to develop a master plan for the MRMC campus. The two planning projects – the MRMC master plan and this Plan for a Life Sciences District – were intended to become a coordinated vision. The two plans do not offer identical outcomes, but they do dovetail – recognizing that the success of one plan cannot occur without the success of the other." The MRMC plan is embedded within the City plan, and as a participant in both processes, County staff have helped to coordinate conversations between the two entities.

In addition to coordinating the growth of the MRMC with the surrounding area, the plan addresses coordination between the medical institutions and the UWM Innovation Campus, the Milwaukee County Research Park, and other areas on the Northwest Quadrant. This coordination includes aesthetics, traffic planning, form and density of buildings, and suggests transit alternatives. A large portion of the plan also focuses on the natural amenities in the Life Sciences District that include the DNR Forest Exploration Center, County Grounds Park, Wisconsin Avenue Park, new extensions of trails and parkways, green corridor connections between the quadrants, and the woods on the Northeast Quadrant.

Much of the public reaction to the plan has related to the process surrounding its development and perceived threats to one sensitive environmental area known as the "asylum woods" or "sanctuary woods". The draft plan was presented by the City on January 12, 2017 and through the collection of public feedback at two public meetings and through online survey collection the vision for this environmentally area has significantly changed.

The current draft version of the comprehensive plan can be viewed at the following link and is attached to this report - <http://www.wauwatosa.net/DocumentCenter/View/3941>.

This draft was updated in a presentation provided at a public meeting on April 6, 2017, also attached to this report and viewed at this link - <http://www.wauwatosa.net/DocumentCenter/View/4060>.

RECOMMENDATION

This report is for informational purposes only.



James Tarantino
Economic Development Director, Department of Administrative Services

Attachments: Jan 12 2017 DRAFT Master Plan
 April 6 2017 Open House Plan Update

cc: Chris Abele, County Executive
 Scott Manske, Comptroller
 John Dargle, Director, Department of Parks, Recreation, and Culture
 Economic and Community Development Committee Members
 Parks, Energy, and Environment Committee Members
 Teig Whaley-Smith, Director, Department of Administrative Services
 Raisa Koltun, Chief of Staff, Office of the County Executive
 Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, County Board of Supervisors
 Eric Peterson, Government Affairs, Office of the County Executive
 Steve Cady, Research & Policy Director
 Shanin Brown, Committee Coordinator