

Pat Small #23

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Statement at a Hearing about the Mitchell Park Domes on 2/24/16

Mr. Chairman and members of the Board:

Today's Domes controversy results from lax stewardship. Executive Abele has continued an unconscionable pattern of deferring park maintenance.

On July 28, 2015, the GRAEF company, the county's consulting engineers, for the second time in a year, warned the Abele administration, (**quote**) "It is imperative that the moisture issues...at the Domes be addressed if the buildings are to remain in operation and in safe condition..." (**unquote**)

That same day, July 28th, Mr. Abele vetoed a board resolution to allot \$5 million for urgent parks repairs that included the Domes. In his veto, Mr. Abele **mocked** that resolution, the result of months of consideration by this elected board, calling it (**quote**) "flippant and irresponsible decision making..." (**unquote**) Mr. Abele's words are classic **projection**, which is to accuse others of one's own failings or shortcomings.

That was right after Mr. Abele **unilaterally** committed \$80 million from county taxpayers for a new Bucks arena. He also gave away, to the Bucks billionaire owners, 10 acres of county land valued at almost \$10 million. Had Mr. Abele sold that land for its value, the county could have funded park repairs twice over. Everyone would be looking better for it, including the Bucks.

Further, Mr. Abele lobbied his Republican allies in Madison to approve **another** \$73 million for the arena--to be paid through countywide hospitality, food and beverage taxes. He finagled these giveaways by getting the Legislature to **exclude** this board, and thus citizens, from having **any** say about it--unprecedented in Wisconsin.

Mr. Abele has **bragged** about brokering this ghastly Bucks deal in which county and city taxpayers will ultimately pay--with interest--about \$320 million for a sports palace with a **mere 30-year** life span. Yet he doubts if we can afford to spend a **fraction** of that to restore these beloved 50-year-old Domes.

Now, suddenly, Mr. Abele has embraced public hearings about the Domes--**after** he rejected repeated calls for hearings about his backroom Bucks deal.

People spend money on what they value. I doubt the super-rich Chris Abele has relied on **public parks** for recreation--as everyone in this room surely has.

However, Mr. Abele **does have** courtside Bucks season tickets. The arena deal reflects what HE values. His neglect of the Domes and other parks indicates he does NOT value spaces available for everyone.

The Domes will not be long-preserved by a county executive who does NOT **greatly** value public parks. We need an executive committed to **sustaining** public assets. Mr. Abele seems to view precious county assets as **irksome** inventory--waiting to be liquidated.

Thank you.

Pat Small

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Robert H. Woiland Jr #28

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Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory



Six major shows are presented yearly in the Show House. A central theme is surrounded by floral displays suitable to the season. Shows based on Christmas, Winter, Easter, Spring, Summer, and Autumn portray unusual beauty.



Cactus and succulent plants native to the southwestern states abound in the Arid House. A central oasis contrasts with the desert varieties ranging from the giant Saguaro down to the Pin Cushion and Lady Finger cacti.



The third dome houses a tropical rain forest complete with a waterfall, reflecting pool, numerous rock formations, and plants from the tropics of Florida, Mexico, and Central America. A visit to Asia completes the tour.

2012 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



The Start of (Three Bridges Park) on the
Hank Aaron State Trail.

To: Mitchell Park Domes
opened July 2013


(North of
Domes)



(North of Domes)

Nov. 4, 2015

(Info. Kiosk)
DNR



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(North of
Domes)

DNR - Kiosk



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