

December 16, 2017

Open letter to Honorable Mayor Riley and Members of the Common Council

This pertains to a proposed baseball diamond and stadium for Frame Park. While we believe that sports facilities of all kinds are beneficial activities in our city, we feel that consideration of a baseball facility in Frame Park is not in keeping with the Fox River Corridor Long Range Plan. We ask the Council to remove any consideration of such a development from whichever departments are reviewing it. Also, the city should suggest to the sponsors of the project that a more suitable location for the facility would be considered favorable.

The Fox River consulting team stated that Frame Park is the largest public open space in the central part of the City. It is the most suitable site in the downtown area for large events, such as community festivals and outdoor public performances. In future years, it can be anticipated, in this growing city that 4000 to 5000 people would attend such events.

The consults (Hitchcock Design Group), also recommended that an amphitheater be constructed near the festival grounds, and that additional land be added to the park as it becomes available. In addition it was their recommendation that the existing ball diamond be relocated. Some brief history of the Fox River Development might be useful to persons who were not here at that time. 1974---downtown task force recommended the project, 1988---ad hoc fox river committee recommended it, 1991 Common Council adopted the project and a budget, 1992 Fox River Board was appointed to oversee the 5 phase development, 1993 phase one (Barstow Plaza was dedicated, then several bridges and the Dreyfus Plaza were dedicated, In 2000/2001 the clock tower, flag court, then Veterans Park and then the E.B. Shurts environmental building in the Fox River Sanctuary area.

A lot more happened along the way from start to finish, but too much to put into this correspondence. Hundreds of citizens donated approximately \$2,000,000, which is about 10% of the total cost. Some gave bridges, Some purchased paving bricks. This truly was a public/private partnership.

Recalling all of this is exciting because of the magnitude of the development and the tremendous involvement of the community.

Thank you for your time in considering this matter. We believe that the goals, the planning, and the implementation of the Fox River Project took much effort on the part of many and should remain firm.

Former Aldermen Charles Betker, and Tom Owens, Former Mayors Carol Lombardi, and Paul Vrakas.

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TO

Common Council  
City of Waukesha  
December 19, 2017

Re: Frame Park

If there is irony in the world, here is a clear example. Over the weekend, a free sample of the Waukesha Freeman was delivered to our mailbox. As I was about to put it in the recycling bin, my husband jokingly said, "I wonder if you're in it." In good fun, I looked at the front page, and saw my name.

By the time I started reading the second paragraph of the article, 'Frame Park Baseball; City, DNR discussing grant restrictions,' I was furious. The fact that one could entertain the idea that "provisions (to) allow (the) city to transfer grants to another piece of comparable land' are absolutely ridiculous.

My great, great grandfather was a very generous man, and benefactor to the Waukesha community including multiple donations, not only to the city, but Carroll College, as well. The idea that the City wants to lease even part of his generous donation to a for-profit organization is ludicrous!

Furthermore, Frame Park, along the Fox River is the land he donated, not an 'undisclosed piece of property.' I am deeply disturbed that the City holds so little regard for this donation that they would be willing to sell out! Why would anyone in the future make any contribution to this community, if its enjoyment by the public can be so easily stripped away?

Please feel free to contact me with any questions, or to talk with me at the Common Council meeting Tuesday evening.

Thank you for your time, as I truly hope this disgusting display of greed and disregard will be corrected.

Karen Frame McDonald  
507 N. Grand Avenue  
Waukesha, WI 53186

# Frame Park supporter died before it opened

## Andrew Frame donated land, was local banker

With the attention of the community focused on the redevelopment of Frame Park, a look at the family who donated the land to the city is appropriate. The Frame family were contributors to the business and cultural development of early Waukesha. The founder of the family, Andrew J. Frame was born in a one-room log cabin on the Five Points on Feb. 19, 1844. His parents Maxwell and Jane Aitken Frame had immigrated from Scotland just four years earlier. Maxwell, a blacksmith, died just six months following Andrew's birth.

After graduating from Waukesha public schools, Andrew went to work at Waukesha County Bank as a messenger in 1862. He moved up the ladder quickly and in 1880 he was elected president of what had become Waukesha National Bank. In 1896 he married Emma J. Richardson, a woman from a notable family. He had said he would not marry until he had \$5,000. That



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happened by the time he was 25. Asked how he accumulated it, he said, "I saved, never speculated." Emma was a descendent of General Israel Putnam who fought in the Revolutionary War. Her parents owned a lumber company on the site of the Fox farm east of Waukesha. The Richardson home where the young couple were married was located at the corner of Grand and Carroll streets. Andrew Frame would later have that house moved off the property and build the imposing home that stands at 507 N. Grand Avenue today. That was in 1879.

Andrew J. Frame became prominent in the American Banker's Association. The Wall Street Journal referred to him as the dean of small town bankers. As he prospered, he shared his wealth with the community. In 1906 he donated land to Carroll College to be used for an athletic field. In

addition, he contributed generously to the college each year. He was a member of the Carroll executive committee and served as treasurer.

In 1926, Frame gave \$25,000 for the purchase of land between the Barstow Street dam and the Locust Street bridge for the development of a park along the Fox River. When improvements to the land lagged, he gave an additional \$25,000 for the development of the low land on the eastern shore.

The formal opening of Frame Park was scheduled for the fall of 1932, but Frame was ill and then suffered a perilous fall from his bed. He died in October at the age of 88. Mayor Morgan R. Butler said at his funeral, "This is a great loss to Waukesha."

Emma Richardson Frame survived her husband for five years. She was a gifted woman who compiled and edited her husband's many speeches and papers on monetary policy. She died in 1937 at the age of 90.

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