

July 10, 2018

To: Board of Directors, Waukesha Public Library
Re: Outdoor space surrounding the library main entrance
From: Carol Meissner, Waukesha Resident

Dear Waukesha Public Library Board Members,

I have lived in Waukesha for 45 years and along with my six children have visited the Waukesha Public Library many, many times over the years - bringing them and my grandchildren to enjoy the activities and the wonderful children's library. I continue to use the services that are provided and appreciate this system of borrowing the large selection of books available for my use through what is now the Bridges Library System.

Each time I visit our library, however, I am disheartened and disappointed at how unkept the grounds are. Driving into the library parking lot is not a pleasant experience. Dead weeds, dying flowers, trees that have not been replaced, cigarette butts scattered on the steps, a stray sock and garbage laying around. No flower pots to brighten the stairs; no hanging pots that would add color to make it much more inviting and attractive. The appearance of our library makes a statement and I don't think it is a positive one!

Tuesday and Thursday evenings during the summer people from the Waukesha community and guests from outside Waukesha gather in beautiful Cutler Park at the Les Paul Performance Center. What do you think our library looks like to visiting guests as they walk from the parking lot? I can't help but think it may appear as I see it to others as well. Messy, unappealing and who cares?

My question is: Whose responsibility is it to care for the grounds? The Wisconsin Avenue side of the library/Cutler Park is lovely and tended to. Is the main entrance included in Cutler Park care? If not, where does the responsibility lie? Why aren't the grounds around the parking lot better cared for? Why do we see only dead weeds in the book drop-off area?

A few years ago I observed volunteer groups from various Waukesha companies pulling weeds and making an effort to clean up the grounds. Nothing came of it, however, that I can see. It is once again in dismal disarray.

Is there a possible solution to this situation? Who would be the appropriate party to approach to encourage change?

I would appreciate any conversation regarding this observation. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



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Cc: President, Friends Board of Directors
Bruce Gay, Library Director