

From: [Marcy Minix](#)
To: [tplanning](#)
Subject: [External] Fwd: Wauwatosa Veterans Memorial
Date: Friday, June 5, 2026 3:12:36 PM

Dear Board of Zoning Appeals -

I thought this additional information might be helpful. It seems to me that the board of the Tosa Veterans Memorial does not have a “do it right the first time but rather a “get it done” approach. I do not think they have considered all the consequences and limitations of the site. The site seems to be well-suited for its current purposes.

I remain opposed to the use of the site, by no means am I opposed to the memorial.

Kind regards,
Marcy Minix

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Marcy Minix** <marcy.minix@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Jun 5, 2026 at 12:00 PM
Subject: Re: Wauwatosa Veterans Memorial
To: Becky Miller <tosavetmemorial@gmail.com>, <asaso@wauwatosa.net>, <mayor@wauwatosa.net>, <jc_moore@milwpc.com>

Hi JC -

Thank you for the complete and clarifying email regarding the Veterans Memorial. I appreciate the difficulty following the loss of the Hart Park location and the responsibility to the donors. As I am on a foundation grant team that scrutinizes non-profits' financials during the grant award process, I am well aware of the questions that donors ask.

However, I maintain that there is an overly optimistic view of the site. Parking issues on the days that school is off is frequently replaced by village events and activities. The cost of moving trees and the bubbler bike rack are going to essentially fall upon the taxpayers - many of whom will not stop or take the block and a half walk up from the central village area. There are houses and apartments and office buildings in between the public's use of the village and the memorial. It is not a short walk or even an interesting walk (no offense to the houses, but they are that - houses). With the loss of civic curriculum in the grade schools, I am doubtful there will be any sort of push by the teachers to make time for the visit to the memorial. Maybe East students, but with the wealth of online resources, it seems more likely to keep them engaged in the classroom.

It sounds like a lot of cement/bricks with high landscaping maintenance that will not be kept up by the city in a timely manner. I am upset we can't just have green space on the east side. That every space must be utilized - even overutilized as in this case.

I have not seen a depiction of the memorial in this particular space. I would like to see how the memorial sits on the site. The pergolas in the original drawing and scale are large and overhanging. I do not see how this will not be a distraction to motorists on that very busy

intersection. Is there a depiction of the changes and updated scale of the memorial?

To be abundantly clear, I am all in favor of a veteran's memorial. I had it in the back of my mind to see about purchasing a brick at one point for my father. You do not have to argue the need for the memorial.

I happen to think that we can do better by our veterans - instead of this particular green space (not unused lot - that's misleading and inflammatory) why aren't the veterans and their advocates fighting for a better lot with space, with parking, with wide sidewalks and with some connection and flow to other points of interest. I don't blame you about Webster Park at all and it is unfortunate about the county ground. Has there been any opportunity to solicit input from the businesses and residents about this location need?

Wauwatosa veterans deserve better. I don't think Wauwatosa is doing its best.

Kind regards,
Marcy Minix

On Thu, Jun 4, 2026 at 11:25 AM Becky Miller <tosavetmemorial@gmail.com> wrote:

Marcy,

Hope you are well. I heard you had concerns about the Wauwatosa Veterans Memorial Project, and I also received a copy of your email sent to the City. Through this email I hope to address some of your concerns. I'm assuming my answers will be circulated to other neighborhood members who have similar questions, and I encourage you to do so.

The history of this Memorial is lengthy and frustrating beginning 5 years ago. Its construction has been delayed by four different site changes, design changes, the pandemic, and of course last summer's flooding. As you mentioned, Hart Park was an ideal site, however after the flooding the costs associated with surveys, flood mitigation measures and the uncertainty of approval by the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District made the Hart Park site untenable. Through hard work and collaboration with the City, we located the current site. Other locations were examined after the floods including a small park in the northwest corner of the City and two other sites in County Parks. The City Park was in a poor location with limited parking, access and visibility. The County would not approve their sites and given the plan for the City to assume ownership of the Memorial when completed, these were not practical. We even looked at trying to locate the Memorial at the Library/City Hall however the proposed renovation of these structures would have delayed the project by 2-3 years. The extra time would mean a delay of **nearly a decade** from original proposal to completion of the memorial.

We are excited about the possibilities and benefits of this site. The design of the Memorial melds several components in a unique, personal and inspiring way. The pergolas (modeled after the WWII Memorial in Washington DC) and surrounding vegetation shield the interior to provide a dignified and contemplative space separate from the surrounding city streets. The space will be paved with over 320 personalized bricks, engraved with the names of Veterans, donated by friends and family. Finally, a planned interactive kiosk will provide visitors with an opportunity to learn about the history of our City and its Veterans. As you note, the space provides an entryway into the village. We are cognizant of the importance of green space in

that area. During the Design Review Board Process a detailed plan for shrubbery, flowers, trees and other vegetation was reviewed at length. In the words of one Design Review Board member, the design combining greenery with the other aspects mentioned above situated at a main entry point into the Village is the "perfect urban project." It will provide a grand and fitting entrance to Wauwatosa and a prominent tribute from our community showing pride for those who fought to protect it.

Although the City will assume ownership of the Memorial after completion, we have established a "Friends of" organization, similar to Hoyt Park, that will continue to partner with the City to ensure the Memorial's upkeep and promotion. Through our outreach efforts, we've sought to heighten awareness of and answer questions about the Memorial. Businesses, Veterans and community groups have donated more than \$250,000 in monetary and in-kind donations for construction, including \$55,500 for the engraved pavers. We have maintained an online and social media presence and have had ongoing communication with our stakeholders. We have had booths at many festivals in and around the Village including Tosafest where you viewed the plan. Past promotional and fundraising efforts will continue long after the memorial is built. Additionally, we hope to partner with the nearby schools and community groups to promote the educational component that the memorial at this site offers. For example, a similar Veteran's Memorial in Pewaukee partners with their local schools to participate in the Veterans Oral History Project – a program to record and archive the stories of our Veterans for future use. We hope to do the same.

Many concerns you mentioned about the site and design have been addressed through the approval process. The scale of the Memorial has been tailored to fit the new site. Photometrics have been completed to ensure Memorial lighting will not distract neighbors or passing motorists. The trees and Bubblr Bikes will be relocated. Entrances, fencing and vegetation have been placed in a way to prevent pedestrians from "shortcutting" through the Memorial. Cameras will monitor the site for security. The design uses materials and walkways which facilitate accessibility by disabled persons. While parking in the area is limited, the Village design promotes pedestrian and bicycle traffic (the Bubblr Bikes are an example of this). We foresee many visitors who will walk to the monument as they do with other parts of the Village. For example, school groups from East or Lincoln may walk to the Memorial for outdoor history lessons with their teachers. Those who don't or are unable to walk to the Memorial will likely come to attend presentations and ceremonies which may take place on holidays (Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Veteran's Day) when East is not in session. We hope to partner with the school to provide additional parking for these high attendance events. Finally, you emphasize how the current space is used in limited ways by the neighborhood. Locating the Memorial here, however, would serve our **entire** City by providing a place to honor and learn about our brave Veterans. Placing it prominently at the entrance to our Village demonstrates how strongly Wauwatosa values its Veterans and their service.

As I mentioned at the start of this email, the process of getting this memorial built has been lengthy. We have received suggestions and concerns from many sources along the way and have worked to accommodate each. Thankfully, the process is nearly complete. The project has been approved by the Design Review Board and Common Council with only one negative vote on each. Even Amanda Saso, the

newly elected Alder whose property is adjacent to the site has voted in support of the project. Impediments like the floods were unforeseen and unavoidable. On the other hand, never-ending changes to the size, design and location of the Memorial are avoidable. While we are open and responsive to input, we stress the importance of getting the Memorial built soon and are wary of anything that will further delay its construction. Delays increase costs, and frustrate supporting businesses, Veterans, families, and other supporters. **They deserve to have this Memorial built.**

That said, we hope to be good partners with the neighborhood. Continued dialogue is important. Please feel free to reach out to the Board so we can try to address any remaining concerns you might have.

JC Moore

Wauwatosa Veterans Memorial