

From: [Stefanie Escobedo](#)
To: [Sara Elmer](#)
Subject: Fw: [External] DRB 4/16/26 Comments - Milwaukee and Harwood - Wauwatosa Veterans Memorial Plaza
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2026 1:43:03 PM

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From: amanda.m.saso@gmail.com <amanda.m.saso@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2026 1:39:32 PM
To: Stefanie Escobedo <sescobedo@wauwatosa.net>
Subject: [External] DRB 4/16/26 Comments - Milwaukee and Harwood - Wauwatosa Veterans Memorial Plaza

Dear Ms. Escobedo & Design Review Board Members,

I apologize that I am not able to attend in person tonight due to a prior commitment with the Wauwatosa Woman's Club. I am writing to share feedback on the proposed Veterans Memorial design scheduled for review.

First, I want to be clear that I support the intent behind this project. Honoring our veterans in a meaningful, lasting way is important to our community, and I appreciate the work that has gone into advancing this proposal. That said, I have some concerns I believe should be addressed before moving forward.

From the perspective of an elected official, I believe there is a need for broader community awareness and input on this proposal. While I understand that inclusion on the agenda serves as formal notice to community members, I would strongly encourage additional opportunity for engagement. Given the visibility and permanence of this installation, I would like to utilize my communication channels as Alderperson to share the proposed design and gather input from residents in the immediate area and across the district prior to final approval. This is prominent site, and public engagement will be critical to ensuring long-term support.

I also have concerns about the scale of the memorial in relation to the proposed site. The design was originally intended for Hart Park—a significantly larger setting where the proportions were more appropriate. In its current location, the memorial feels oversized for the pocket park context. Elements such as the overall footprint and the inclusion of uplighting may feel out of scale with the surrounding residential and pedestrian environment.

As the homeowner directly adjacent to the site, I share these concerns more personally. The intensity and scale of the design could have a direct impact on neighboring properties. I believe it is important to carefully consider how the memorial will integrate into the immediate residential context.

Additionally, there are practical site considerations that warrant further evaluation. Parking in this area is already limited, and the presence of a bus stop along Harwood Avenue directly in front of the site further constrains access. I am also concerned about the

proposed relocation of the Bublr Bikes station currently located on-site. Based on prior experience, relocation costs can be substantial (previous estimates have been in the range of \$10,000), and it is unclear where this station would be moved or how that cost would be absorbed.

Finally, in my role as Executive Director of the Wauwatosa Historical Society and as a member of the Historic Preservation Commission, I would be remiss not to note the historical significance of this site. This location is recognized as the site of Wauwatosa's first public library, and it currently functions as a small pocket park at the convergence of Milwaukee Avenue, Harwood Avenue, and 73rd Street. While the space is somewhat underutilized due to its triangular layout and location, it still holds meaningful historical value within the Village, and in the City as a whole.

As plans for the memorial move forward, the Historical Society would welcome the opportunity to partner on incorporating a historical interpretive element into the site, such as a discreet informational sign similar to that in front of the Little Red Store, so that the story of this location can be shared alongside the memorial. Thoughtfully integrating both elements could create a more layered and meaningful experience, honoring not only those who have served, but also the history of the place itself.

In summary, while I support the mission of this project, I believe additional consideration should be given to:

- Ensuring appropriate scale and design for the site
- Addressing site constraints, including parking, transit adjacency, and bike share relocation
- Respecting the historical significance of the location

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration. I appreciate the work of the Design Review Board and look forward to continued discussion on how to best achieve a memorial that both honors our veterans and fits appropriately within this important community space.

Sincerely,

Amanda Saso
Alderman, District 4
Executive Director, Wauwatosa Historical Society
Member, Historic Preservation Commission

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