

Milwaukee Preservation Alliance eComment – Milwaukee County File 21-772

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The Milwaukee Preservation Alliance would like to urge the Committee to move forward with confidence toward a long-term solution for the Domes that preserves this community landmark for decades to come. Our own outreach through the Save Our Domes campaign, along with every survey conducted with the public, shows that the people of Milwaukee County cherish the Domes and support a preservation solution. We urge the Board to seriously weigh the importance of the public voice in determining ways forward and to ensure that future decision-making processes are transparent and invite meaningful public participation.

We would also encourage the Board to give credence to the incredible work completed by the citizens of the Domes Task Force, which was commissioned by the County Board. The Task Force worked for 3 years, engaging with the public and endeavoring to consider all possible ways forward for the Domes. Based on this exhaustive work, the Task Force developed a vision for a way forward that acknowledges the challenges while focusing on the possibilities. Their years of work determined that preservation is both feasible and beneficial and would produce an economically sustainable future for Mitchell Park that would enhance the Clarke Square neighborhood and the entire County. This vision would create 300 quality new jobs in a dense and incredibly diverse neighborhood and foster a culture of health and urban agriculture throughout the region by developing Mitchell Park into a new Learning, Wellness, and Horticultural campus. Moreover, public-private partnerships such as the Task Force recommends have been accomplished successfully and revitalized communities over and over again throughout the country

The Domes are an internationally unique treasure that provide health benefits year-round to all residents of the County. A long-term preservation solution at the Domes would be a meaningful step toward the County's stated goal of being the healthiest County in Wisconsin by achieving racial equity. We urge the Committee to seriously consider the health, environmental, economic, equity, and cultural benefits the long-term preservation of the Domes and development of the surrounding Mitchell Park can provide to the County for decades to come.