

Now therefore, be it resolved by the Board of the Stockade Association that while the city did not keep the Stockade Association informed of the 2019 revisions, the plan is consistent with the original 2017 city council resolution and meets the goals of the Association to preserve Riverside Park. Even though the underground portion extends beyond the 30 foot area, it will not have any visual impact on the restored park land. The board deeply regrets the loss of surrounding trees and especially the large, Silver Maple. The association strongly encourages the city to make every effort to protect both the natural and built environment as this project proceeds. The Association also invites interested residents to work with the Association in monitoring the construction of the new pump station.

**Approved by the Board of the Stockade Association of Schenectady, New York on May 6, 2020.**

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Suzanne S. Unger", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and extends slightly beyond the line on both sides.

Suzanne S. Unger, President

## **Response of the Stockade Association Board to Removal of Riverside Park Tree on April 22, 2020**

Whereas, the City of Schenectady, in compliance with a DEC consent order, designed a new pump station in spring 2017, where the above-ground portion took up most of the park between North Ferry Street and Governor's Lane; and

Whereas, in the summer of 2017 the Stockade Association and others joined together to encourage the city to develop an alternative plan; and

Whereas, the Stockade neighborhood asked for preservation of as much parkland as possible; and

Whereas, the Schenectady City Council passed a resolution in June 2017 that made a commitment "... that any new pump station be kept, to the extent reasonably possible within the current boundary of the lot [fenced area] of old pump station...and that any building overflow into the Riverside Park [outside fenced area] will be minimized to no wider than 30 feet;" and

Whereas, it was the City's intention and the Association's understanding that "building overflow" referred to above-ground structures, not underground structures, so as to preserve as much usable parkland as possible; and

Whereas, in December 2018 the Stockade Association objected to Environmental Review findings and required it be corrected to address significant impacts on the historic 1913 building; and

Whereas, the site plan the Association agreed to in 2017 was modified in 2019 to satisfy the requirements of the revised goal to maintain and protect the historic 1913 building. To provide space to construct the new building without damaging the old building, the above ground portion of the new building's location was moved further into the 30 foot area beyond the pump station fence. Part of the underground structure was relocated 19 feet beyond the above-ground construction limits; and

Whereas, the revised 2019 site plan, while different from the original 2017 plan, complies with the neighborhood's goal to preserve as much useable park area as possible and keep new above-ground construction within 30 feet of the original fenced area; and

Whereas, the revised site plan was available to the public in May 2019, though the city did not notify the Stockade Association of the revisions; and

Whereas, the excavation contractors removed a large, Silver Maple on Earth Day, April 22, 2020, as stipulated in the 2019 plan; and

Whereas, some neighbors have expressed concern that the 2019 plan does not comply with the provisions of the 2017 city council resolution;

Whereas, the board reviewed the 2019 site plan and determined that it is consistent with the provisions of the 2017 plan regarding above grade development and meets the Association's goal of preserving as much useable parkland as possible, though it is unfortunate that the city did not better communicate with the Association about the revisions.