

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FOX WISCONSIN HERITAGE PARKWAY

Introduced by Ald. Sevenich

WHEREAS, two significant waterways, the Fox and Wisconsin Rivers, have a history that dates back more than 12,000 years, beginning with American Indian use. After being re-discovered by famed European explorers Father Marquette and Louis Joliet, both rivers played an integral role in opening the Midwestern United States; and

WHEREAS, the Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway (Parkway) was formed by environmental groups, state and federal agencies, county, municipal and private sectors to exemplify and to promote the natural, recreational, and historic resources within the Fox and Wisconsin Rivers corridor and to create additional opportunities for historic interpretation, education, recreation, and tourism; and

WHEREAS, as part of the project's ten year undertaking, seventeen (17) lock sites, the historic structure of the Parkway stretching 280 miles from Prairie du Chien to the Port of Green Bay, have been transferred to the State of Wisconsin, with the majority undergoing restoration; and

WHEREAS, plans are progressing for the Parkway to receive the National Park Service's National Heritage Area (NHA) designation in order to increase the awareness of the cultural, historical, and recreational resources that the waterway has to offer; and

WHEREAS, the Fox Wisconsin Heritage Parkway will result in increased tourism, transportation and economic development as the area becomes a year-round heritage tourism destination that will result in an overall boost to Wisconsin's economy by:

- Enhancing and promoting historic sites;
- Highlighting the versatility and abundance of natural areas;
- Promoting local events;
- Opening a water trail;
- Developing scenic routes;
- Providing outdoor enthusiasts with more recreational activities;
- Bringing new businesses, jobs, higher property values, and tourism; and

WHEREAS, the Heritage Parkway Executive Committee and its affiliate organizations, sponsors, and volunteers are asking for help in keeping the Fox Wisconsin Heritage Parkway's opportunities alive for the community of today and tomorrow with a continuing effort to revitalize the waterway as an economic, environmental, and recreational resource; and

WHEREAS, the City of Menasha Landmarks Commission recognizes the importance of increasing awareness of the cultural and historic resources within the proposed corridor and supports the establishment of the Fox Wisconsin Heritage Parkway.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Menasha hereby recognizes the importance of the mission and vision of the Fox Wisconsin Heritage Parkway and supports its establishment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Menasha also recognizes that when environmental, heritage, and tourism-related entities partner with the communities, the historic, cultural, and natural resources are more effectively preserved, interpreted, and promoted.

Passed and approved this _____ day of June, 2011.

Don Merkes, Mayor

Attest: _____
Deborah Galeazzi, City Clerk