



Tenney Park to get Vintage Postcard Sculptures

On May 19, 2019 from 1:00-5:00 P.M., the Tenney-Lapham Neighborhood Association will host a Century Celebration of historic Tenney Park with support from a City of Madison Neighborhood Grant. The grant also supports the creation of a permanent art installation composed of five sculptures that display enlarged vintage postcard images of Tenney Park from the early 1900s.

Members of Madison’s Four Lakes Postcard Club contributed postcards from their private collections. This art installation in Tenney Park will enable park visitors to enjoy historic images that usually are reserved for private collectors and not seen by the general public. The 24” by 16” images will pique the curiosity of twenty-first century viewers and feed their imaginations by presenting pictures of the park from more than one hundred years ago. The sculptures that will frame the images were designed by Madison artist Mike Burns. They include a metal outline of Tenney Park’s “Most Beautiful Bridge.” This image is the iconic symbol for the Tenney-Lapham Neighborhood Association and the most recognizable bridge in Tenney Park.

I have lived across the street from Tenney Park for more than forty years. My idea for the installation came from several sources. A neighbor, Martha



Kilgour, who died in 2010, lived across from Tenney Park her entire life and loved to collect images of the park. Martha sought ways to share these images with neighbors and other Madisonians. I grew up in a family of collectors, and learned from my father the joy of serendipity; encountering something special and interesting in an unexpected place. When a flower design of mine was selected to adorn one of Madison’s Utility Boxes, I began thinking of Martha’s postcards and how, with current technology, they could be permanently printed on aluminum for display outdoors. Although the postcard sculptures were originally scheduled to be installed in September, 2018, due to the flooding at Tenney Park, the unveiling of the permanent vintage postcard sculptures will take place at 4:30 p.m. on May 19, 2019

at the Century Celebration of Tenney Park and the Tenney-Lapham Neighborhood.

Thank you to the following people and organizations that have generously supported the creation of the vintage postcard installation: the City of Madison Neighborhood Grant Program, the Tenney Lapham

Neighborhood Association and neighborhood donors including: Associated Bank, Big Top Baseball, Burnie’s Rock Shop, Festival Foods, Full Spectrum Solar, The Livingston Inn, Martha Porter Kilgour Fund, McGrath Property Group, Mendota Lake House Inn, The QTI Group, Renaissance Property Group, Reynolds Transfer & Storage, and Stone House Development.

- Caroline Hoffman

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