

May 4, 2026

Kevin Boehm, Director

City of Whitewater

Park and Recreation

Dear Sir,

The Whitewater Community Food Pantry appreciated the time given to us to share our thoughts at the recent Park and Recreation Board meeting on April 15. Under discussion was charging the Food Pantry rent, which hadn't been asked before, and our concern about the Pantry paying rent from funds donated specifically to purchase groceries for those in need. During the meeting a proposal was suggested to move the Pantry downstairs to the kitchen and vestibule due to concerns about elevator usage and repair costs.

There are pros and cons to this suggestion. As the Food Pantry volunteers discussed this proposal a few days later, some very real concerns surfaced leading us to wonder if the change would allow us to serve our patrons as well as we do now.

Using the downstairs vestibule space is limited, yet we need space for:

1. Grocery carts.
2. For volunteers to sit and register patrons.
3. For patrons to wait to register and to be served.
4. Several tables, like we have now, to display produce and bakery.
5. Wall space for posting community services helpful to our patrons. (this is lacking)

Another thought, using the downstairs vestibule would be very cold for volunteers sitting and registering people and for the patrons who are waiting, as the doors would open and close repeatedly with people going in and out.

It is understandably difficult for your Board to visualize our current arrangement and the changes that would need to be made to move downstairs without seeing the Pantry. Therefore, we would like to invite a few of your members to meet with Pat, at the Food Pantry, to see the current set up, and to view the downstairs area. We believe it could be helpful to you in your decision making.



Janice Batten, Secretary

Food Pantry # 262-458-2720

Pat Chaput, Manager 262-473-9721