

**LETTER TO THE EDITOR  
SHEBOYGAN PRESS  
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2017**

*Reprinted with permission from Roberta Filicky-Peneski, Chair of the Sheboygan Redevelopment Authority.*

On Tuesday, October 25 and Wednesday, October 26, I attended the Wisconsin Downtown Summit held in Sheboygan and organized by the Wisconsin Downtown Action Council. More than 90 city planning professionals from around the state were in attendance. Both the City of Sheboygan and Sheboygan Squared were among the event sponsors.

Our city “stood up” and shined. On the first cold, but sunny day, participants went on a walking tour from the Weill Center past the art alleys, across the City Green in front of the new Encore Apartments and over to John Michael Kohler Art Center and its old library façade. Some participants did an early morning bike tour of the city to see other venues. The mayor presented impressive statistics about the city’s well-being and growth.

On day two, our City Planner, Chad Pelishek, and the Assistant Director of the John Michael Kohler Arts Center, Amy Horst, were luncheon keynote speakers. They discussed the collaboration between the City of Sheboygan and the John Michael Kohler Art Center. A small property developer from Buffalo, New York, “discovered” by the organizers in a Ted Talk, highlighted potential in refurbishing and rehabbing affordable housing. Her parting comment to us was “Get your city into the national media. You have something wonderful here.”

By Thursday afternoon, kite surfers were on the white caps off Blue Harbor’s shores, putting to rest the chuckles about Sheboygan as “The Malibu of the Midwest.” As the visitors left the city, the number of orange-barrels lining our downtown streets and bridges reinforced that we are indeed a city on the move.

Our city’s progress made me proud during those two days of “show and tell.” I encourage you to join in that pride by doing your part in making this community shine. We do have something to be proud of.

*Roberta Filicky-Peneski,  
Sheboygan*