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# *DMNA Council Meeting Minutes for 03/01/23*

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6:45 pm, Zoom remote call

## **IN ATTENDANCE**

Diego Saenz, Marie Trest, Dennis Trest, Shawn Schey, Daryl Sherman, Tom Huber, Jake Dean, Sandy Stark, Lisa Grueneberg, Annie Balch, Marc Gartler, Tag Evers, Rachel Fields, Brad Boyce, Josh Napravnik, Ann Clark, Pa Cho, Michael Schneider

## **PROCEDURAL**

- Call to Order: 6:45 p.m.
- There was a unanimous vote to approve the agenda.
- There was a unanimous vote to approve the corrected February meeting minutes. [correction: add Sandy Stark to attendance]

## **ALDER'S REPORT**

- The Common Council approved the changes to family zoning. Tag and Alder Vidaver proposed an amendment to increase the occupancy limit to three in a campus area overlay, which did not pass. Though Tag did not agree with every aspect of the new policy, he voted in favor. Tag and Vidaver are working with staff to identify city areas at risk for possible gentrification to monitor and collect housing data in order to counter gentrification if it occurs as the city grows and density increases.

Tag does not think this change will destroy neighborhoods. Changes are expected to be gradual and have less effect in Dudgeon Monroe. Greenbush may lose some existing affordable housing that could be converted to rental housing. He would like to see policies that would make our city less segregated. While this policy was not designed to have this effect, it may allow people to pool resources and afford other neighborhoods. The concern is LLCs buying houses and renting to 3-4 adults that may make places unaffordable to single parents with their children.

Tag appreciated DMNA's respectful discussion of this issue, given that some neighbors hold strong feelings about it. In future, when redevelopments on Monroe St are proposed, it would be nice to support more housing.

- Two new affordable housing projects will be announced, one on Regent Street and one at Neighborhood House.
- The Building Energy Savings Program will go up for a vote next Tuesday. The chamber of commerce would like a voluntary program for the private sector instead. Under the BESP, businesses of 25,000 sq ft and above would be required to benchmark energy use annually. Buildings of 50,000 sq ft and above would be required to 'tune up' every 4 years to recalibrate existing systems.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Dennis reviewed DMNA's income and expenses for February.

Income: Total \$137.26

Expenses: Total: \$2,327.56

Current Membership: 769

The treasurer's report was accepted by unanimous vote.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- Tyler Leeper suggested having a DMNA annual social in conjunction with the Wingra Lake Blessing, summer boating season kick-off, and potluck. DMNA could bring information about the neighborhood and pies to share. Sandy and Marie are willing to work on this and staff a table with neighborhood information.
- Someone reached out with concerns about intersection and pedestrian safety around West Lawn, maybe by Trader Joe's. Will connect with Transportation Committee.

## AGENDA ITEMS

- Proposed Family Occupancy Zoning Changes - Shawn Schey presented in conjunction with the Alder's report. Shawn attended the Common Council meeting last night. There were good questions asked. Seven people spoke in favor of the ordinance, 17 spoke against it. Evers' and Vidaver's amendment failed, as did another proposed amendment. Three African American alders spoke about how this policy may not help Black and Brown residents. Alder Carter has concerns about single family housing becoming less available in neighborhoods.

Discussion – *Diego*: The DMNA zoning statement was a good representation of the opinions of the neighborhood. *Marc*: Concerned that some of the reactions in press today lumped together the entire near-west side as opposing infill, contrary to the rest of the city. Would like to continue to have a voice in city politics. *Rachel*: The political climate is changing to pro-infill/development, not always being oppositional will help DMNA maintain credibility with the city *Josh*: Without more housing in city, there won't be affordable single-family housing available. Houses start at over \$500,000 in this neighborhood, and one-bedroom apartments are \$1,500 to rent.

- DMNA Listserv - Shawn Schey

Shawn and Catherine have been talking with a neighbor who felt like the zoning discussion was slanted in the Hornblower. People may find out about issues in the Hornblower or alder's blog or monthly meetings, but these timeframes may not be nimble enough for quick-moving items. Vilas neighborhood association has a listserv, where neighbors can discuss issues with each other. Would there be interest in establishing a moderated DMNA listserv?

Discussion – *Lisa*: The communications committee chair sends out a weekly DMNA News email with timely information and resources.

*Josh*: Concerned that a DMNA listserv would become an equivalent of Nextdoor.

*Rachel*: There is also The Green, which is a broader community Google Group. *Shawn*: Would The Green allow for the conversations on specific DMNA neighborhood issues?

*Josh*: As far as the zoning ordinances, the Hornblower articles were written to be neutral and provide the neighborhood information about the ordinance proposed. *Diego*: Criticisms of the coverage in the Hornblower seem unfair. DMNA did communicate; City moved quickly on this zoning change. *Sandy*: It may be helpful to refer people to relevant committees to discuss. *Ann*: Hosting meetings with city staff to learn and discuss has worked in the past and been more civil than some online discussions.

Concerns about starting a DMNA listserv included *Rachel*: some listserves are like rousing the mob about City issues, wouldn't want to increase this in the neighborhood. *Marie*: Would a DMNA listserv be moderated, and who would moderate it? Other area online forums become toxic. *Dennis*: There are many venues and tools to become engaged and learn; concerned individuals could get involved. *Marc*: Some are not in favor of having more email.

Ann proposed a MOTION (Shawn Seconded) – If the option is available, where there are major policy changes proposed, DMNA will try to schedule a neighborhood meeting to provide education and to collect feedback.

[12 in favor, 3 abstain, motion passes]

- Search for VP - Shawn Schey and Marie Trest  
The search continues for a candidate for VP. Please refer any leads to Marie or Shawn. A job description based on Shawn's experience is available.
- Garden Pots - Diego Saenz  
Orange Schroeder said not all neighborhood garden pots are being maintained. Is there a committee that cares for garden pots?  
*Sandy*: Adjacent businesses will often take care of garden pots. We no longer have a garden committee. Native plants may work better. *Sandy* will ask businesses as she goes around for directory. May be better off with banners on flag poles.  
*Daryl*: Not sure where large cement pots went. They were hard to maintain.

#### Other announcements

Thank you to Lisa for excellent communications outreach and work on new website. Some of the new website will be shared next month.

Marc Gartler – Edgewood has signage that will go before the Urban Design Commission on March 15. A liaison committee member will go to that meeting.

*Sandy* moved to adjourn. *Daryl* seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.  
*Minutes respectfully submitted by Marie Trest.*