
DMNA Council Meeting Minutes for 4/05/23

6:45 pm, Zoom remote call

IN ATTENDANCE

Diego Saenz, Catherine Jagoe, Marie Trest, Dennis Trest, Shawn Schey, Sarah Lerner, Jake Dean, Kathy Engebretsen, Lisa Grueneberg, Daryl Sherman, Tom Huber, Dave Leeper, Annie Balch, Marc Gartler, Tag Evers, Chip Nitschke, Brad Boyce, Sandy Stark, Tracy Lewis, Peter [Gascoyne?], Josh Napravnik, Linell Davis

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 March meeting minutes.

ALDER'S REPORT

- The new Common Council will be sworn in April 18. There are 8 new Council members, including Alder Rummel for D6. The first trans alder has been elected to the Council. Mayor Satya won her re-election. Janet Protasiewicz's election was a profound moment for our city.
- Tag came down with Covid last week. He encourages all to avoid catching it, and to seek out Paxlovid promptly if you do test positive.
- Edgewood has filed their appeal; the City will be responding.
- For those living adjacent to the SW Path, the railroad and the City have come to an agreement about what structures and equipment will be permitted on properties that abut the path. Contact Tag with questions.
- A future 50-unit affordable housing development possible at Jensen Auto location on Regent St.
- Tag is on the Farmland Preservation Task Force. As the city grows and we need more housing, we need to be able to feed the community with locally-sourced food (its importance was highlighted by the pandemic supply problems).

TREASURER'S REPORT

Dennis reviewed DMNA's income and expenses for March.

Income: Total \$7.10.

Expenses: Total: \$0.20.

Current Membership: 769.

The treasurer's report was accepted by unanimous vote.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Diego thanked everyone for voting. There was 72.9% turnout at the Edgewood polling location. About 74% at the Wingra School location.

AGENDA ITEMS

- Stone Culvert Arch at SW Bike Path Adjacent to Glenwood Children's Park – Sarah Lerner from the City of Madison Engineering Department. The culvert is where the majority of the water enters the park. The park is on DOT property and the City of Madison has arranged to lease it so is now responsible for maintenance e.g., of the existing stone wall, which is over 100 years old and disintegrating. In 2018, the City contracted with Insight Architects on the wall. They recommended replacing it. A contractor would rebuild the existing wall with the same aesthetic, reusing stones where possible. A site walk-through will be held on April 20th with Ann Freiwald and Sarah Lerner departing from the bottom of Glenwood Children's Park. The City hopes to do the construction in August. One suckering black locust coming through wall will be removed, but probably none of the larger trees will need to be removed. Tag and Dave pointed out that erosion is present. Sarah responded that this project will only repair the wall, not address erosion in the ravine. Sarah is aware of the erosion problem and City will be working to address it long-term. Sandy has been in touch with Sarah about this and has no special concerns about the project.
- Monroe Street Placemaking Ideas – Josh Napravnik. Josh invited the Council to consider some options to foster place-making in the neighborhood. He showed images of artistic-looking musical instruments situated in park playgrounds. Would DMNA be interested in co-funding a project like this along with the Monroe St Merchants' Association, possibly with an arts grant from the City of Madison? In terms of placemaking, a feature like this would work at the top of Monroe St, Monroe Commons (Grant/West Lawn/Monroe) or Monroe/Commonwealth intersection as well as in Wingra Park. *Sandy*: a survey sent out on parks redesign for Monona included proposals like this. *Diego* is very supportive because this would bring people together by creating focal points for gathering. *Dennis* likes the idea and as Treasurer sees it as part of the purpose of DMNA. Our membership dues should go to things like this. He said that a capital fund drive would not be necessary to finance it as we have \$37,000 in hand. We haven't been giving back much to the community lately. *Daryl* agrees it is a fine idea. *Marc* likes the idea of placemaking but isn't ready to immediately approve the musical instruments idea—would like us to brainstorm other options first. *Josh* agrees—anything artistic would work, something that looks good but also engages people to interact with it in some way. *Dave* likes bandstands and gazebos and he notes that Wingra Park has no shelter. Could a stage/pavilion combination work? At Midvale School they have broken musical instruments. *Marie* is interested in the idea of a stage that kids could play on regularly; Monroe St Merchants might be interested in working with us on that. *Tracy* suggested a shelter at Wingra. *Diego* said that would be nice, but the cost would be too great. *Tracy* suggested a partnership with the City. *Marc* pointed out anything that needs ongoing maintenance is a non-starter. Given the consensus that we should proceed with this project, Josh summarized our discussion so far as (1) What place-making thing should we choose? (2) Where do we put it? He noted that conversations will be needed with either Monroe Commons or Parks Dept. *Sandy*: Parks Dept sees Wingra as an open park for sports activities. Any structure would have to be small and open, otherwise they would attract unwanted late-night activity. There are a lot of new Parks staff now and it would be worth engaging with them. *Tracy* clarified that she meant a roofed open shelter. *Brad* says Goodman Foundation has an arm that funds park equipment and refurbishing. Might be worth considering because they have significant funding opportunities. *Josh* will follow up with Parks Dept.

- Healthy Snacks Program – Bob Block asked for this to be an item on the agenda but is not here to present it – presumably the program needs more funds? Dave Leeper couldn't be more specific. He suggested Lisa put an announcement in the newsletter asking for donations.
- At-Large Members – Catherine and Diego. Current at-large members wanting to serve again, please email the Executive Committee before the April 16 Annual Meeting so that we can vote on the slate for the year. Others who want to serve, or who want to nominate someone, please do likewise.
- DMNA logo – Lisa Grueneberg. Lisa showed a new logo graphic using the 1905 USGS map and asked for input, which was enthusiastic for a cellphone format but more mixed for use on the new DMNA website. Lisa knows two people who could help redesign some other options and will contact them.
- Volunteers to review pages without a corresponding committee – Lisa Grueneberg. Please email Lisa if willing to volunteer.

Daryl moved to adjourn. Marc seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Catherine Jagoe