
DMNA Council Meeting Minutes for 06/07/23

6:45 pm, Zoom remote call

IN ATTENDANCE

Diego Saenz, Catherine Jagoe, Lisa Grueneberg, Tom Huber, Marcia Diamond, Brad Boyce, Kathy Engebretsen, Jake Dean, Duncan Carlsmith, Tag Evers, Sandy Stark, Dennis Trest, Ann Clark, Ethel Biro, Tyler Leeper, Josh Napravnik, Rachel Fields

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 May meeting minutes.

ALDER'S REPORT

- Common Council meeting last night lasted a long time. They accepted the final report of the Farmland Preservation Taskforce, which Tag led.
- The Jensen Auto property redevelopment project is moving ahead on Regent St. Also, Neighborhood House Community Center will demolish and replace their building on S. Mills St and add four stories of affordable housing above. The City's long-term goal is to make Regent St safer for pedestrians and cyclists and more aesthetically pleasing. Regent St is likely to gain more housing for families and working folks rather than students and thus retail will follow. Tag is excited about that and is on a Regent St Task Force, which meets four times a year and involves some 40 people from UW, UWH etc.

Brad pointed out it will be hard to make Regent more bike- and pedestrian-friendly because it is an important thoroughfare, like Monroe. Tag thinks Traffic & Engineering will find ways to make it safer.

- Boardman and Clark law firm, representing the City, updated Tag on Edgewood's most recent filing. The next step is oral arguments in Aug-Sep-Oct before a 3-judge panel in the Appeals Court. A ruling will be issued four months after that, either to let the summary judgment stand or to order a trial, which, if it happened, would be next spring/summer.

Tom Huber asked how the Park St grocery store development is going. Tag hasn't toured the completed units yet. First occupants will move in this summer. Grocery store has a signed agreement and will be open by end of year. The owner of Pick n Save contacts Tag about that

every month as they have agreed to stay open until the new store opens. Pick n Save will be demolished and replaced by apartments.

- Bayview development will contain 48 new units in 4 stories – first phase complete with residents in place. 2nd phase under way for other buildings in Triangle. The process will take 10 years to complete. The number of housing units will increase from 400 units to 1200 units total. There will be 400 units of workforce housing mixed in with lower-income tenants.

Duncan has been on campus planning committee to redesign the west end of campus round the hospital—wondered if they have been interfacing with the City? Tag doesn't know if they have been talking about providing more housing. Hospitals on Park St are in conversation with the Triangle project to offer right of first refusal to hospital employees for workforce housing so they could walk to work. All employers in the city are concerned about housing availability.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Dennis reviewed DMNA's income and expenses for May.

Income: Total \$6.80

Expenses: Total: \$2,379.32

Current Membership: 769

The treasurer's report was accepted by unanimous vote.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- Tyler Leeper has requested DMNA sponsorship of \$1100 for a new activity started last summer, First Fridays at Wingra. These events, organized by Tyler and Annemarie Maitri of Bloom, bring food carts and live music to Wingra Park on the first Friday evening of the month. They were extremely well-received in August and September 2022, so they will be held again this summer. First Fridays bring neighbors of all ages together in the way that Jazz in the Park, did, for a fraction of the cost and effort. They just had their season-opener First Friday event and, like last year, there were large numbers in attendance. There was a great neighborhood band. It will cost Tyler and Annemarie \$2,200 to pay for the four months' summer events, including the bands, the food carts and park permit fees. Neither of them have the time or capacity to fund-raise to cover that. Any donation from DMNA would be extremely welcome in any amount. Ideally, they are asking for half, i.e., \$1100.

Discussion:

Tyler: Science Thursdays will not happen this year or next.

Diego: Historically we used to contribute about \$1,000 to Jazz in the Park and \$500 to Good Neighbor Gathering. This request is well in line with that. Jazz in the Park cost close to \$7,000 yearly with a large risk of being rained out. This is much easier and just as successful.

Lisa: this is a no-brainer. We should definitely contribute, it is such a lighter-weight version of Jazz in the Park.

Ann Clark: could we move budget items from Science Thursdays to this? We should be sponsors so we get credit if we donate.

Josh: Last year, Westmoreland's park event used QR tags to Venmo WNA for the cost of drinks. If we contributed drinks with QR codes, this could raise money for the events. Diego says we need a permit for alcohol, but he is supportive.

Duncan: could we give donations directly at the event? Diego said it would be easier if attendees donated to DMNA if we are trying to raise money for alcohol.

Dennis: the last time we had Jazz in the Park, we spent \$7,300 and took in \$5,800, so DMNA covered the remainder. We should be spending our membership fees on community events. Having multiple events makes great sense. We don't carry over money from year to year, unspent money goes back into the general account. We have \$1,000 unspent dollars from Monroe St Childrens Festival and \$1,500 carrying over from something else. We have money even in the budget ending July 31.

Ann: we should become THE official sponsor, and a smaller group needs to talk with Tyler. Diego prefers to let Anne Marie and Tyler run it. Tyler's view: Anne-Marie coordinates the food carts, he coordinates the bands, they put a poster together and then they're done. They get a huge turnout for very little effort. He would love DMNA to grow the event, but either we go with the current model or take it over completely—he is not willing to add any more meetings.

Dennis: We currently have \$2,500 unspent and even after we subtract expenditure for the 4 July event, we will have at least \$2,000 left in this year's budget. We could easily contribute \$2,000.

Tyler would like 2 DMNA feather flags to put on either side of the band.

Josh moved we cut a check for \$2,000 out of this year's budget to sponsor this summer's First Friday events. Seconded by Ann Clark. Motion passed unanimously.

Diego asked if we want to allot \$2,000 for First Fridays in 2024.

Tom suggested we budget \$2,000 for next year and see how this summer goes, then apply the \$2,000 for next year or adjust as necessary.

Josh asked if he should look into alcohol permitting at Wingra Park. Diego will explore the City rules on giving away beer vs selling beer. Josh and Diego will follow up. The rules might be different if DMNA sells vs one of the vendors. Diego will ask WNA how they handled the permits and alcohol at their event. Duncan expressed concern about DMNA selling alcohol, especially in large amounts. Brad said maybe the Laurel Tavern could offer a Beer Garden for these events? Rachel would like DMNA to buy a keg.

AGENDA ITEMS

- DMNA Sponsorship for First Fridays at Wingra – Tyler Leeper/Diego (see President's Report)
- Serving alcohol at First Fridays at Wingra – Josh/Diego (see President's Report)

- 2023-2024 Budget – Dennis Trest

Dennis: Could the various committees look at the balance in their Segregated Funds and put forward motions of whether they want them rolled over or revert to general? They should eliminate any items no longer pertinent.

Josh: has been working with Tag and the City on getting musical installations at Wingra—no timeline yet. Could that come from the General Fund or should he get pre-approval?

Dennis: General Fund has money in it and Josh can bring it up when the time comes. Doesn't need to be under a particular committee's operating expenses.

Dennis: Didn't DMNA contribute to bus-stop benches? Some are no longer bus stops, so do we own the benches at what used to be the stops on Commonwealth? Not a budget question – should be referred to the Transportation Committee.

Lisa pointed out that school buses still stop there.

The Zoom yearly fee is listed under Communications in the budget for now.

Dennis: What will the recipient for the Capital Fund for next year be? We need to discuss that at our next meeting.

A vote was taken to approve the 2023-2024 budget proposal. It passed by unanimous vote.

- DMNA Storage Trailer – Lisa Grueneberg

We still need to find a location for the DMNA Trailer. Lisa would like to inquire about parking it behind the Laurel Tavern—does anyone have a contact at the Laurel? If not, Lisa will go in and talk to them. It would be very convenient for the Wingra gardens and 4 July event. If this fails, we will have to look at selling the trailer and renting a storage space. We don't have a deadline on when to move it. Duncan asked if we could find a neighbor willing to take it. Lisa said we could ask in DMNA news if anyone has a space they would rent to us for a monthly fee. Sandy knows someone who has a contact at Laurel and will follow up with Lisa.

Ann moved to adjourn. Lisa seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
Meeting adjourned at 8:13 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Catherine Jagoe