
DMNA Council Meeting Minutes for 07/05/23

6:45 pm, Zoom remote call

IN ATTENDANCE

Diego Saenz, Catherine Jagoe, Carole Kantor, Lisa Grueneberg, Marie Trest, Brad Boyce, Dennis Trest, Michael Schneider, Tag Evers, Kathy Engebretsen, Tracy Lewis, Shawn Schey, Sandy Stark, Josh Napravnik, Marie Nitschke

PROCEDURAL

- Call to Order: 6:50 p.m.
- There was a unanimous vote to approve the agenda with three additions.
- There was a unanimous vote to approve the June meeting minutes with one correction.

ALDER'S REPORT

- At the June 20th Common Council meeting, Tag voted against a proposed 232-unit luxury student housing project at W. Johnson and Bassett because it involved demolishing 70 existing affordable housing units. However, the vote may have been illegal, according to the City Attorney, and the proposal will likely be reconsidered by Common Council on July 11th. Tag may change his vote, which was largely a protest against the demolition of current affordable housing. He would like to get the private sector more involved in helping to create more affordable housing in the city and seeks to create a housing Task Force combining public and private sector members.
- Tag held a meeting at the Labor Temple to introduce Kristie Maurer, the proprietor of Maurer's Urban Market, the future South Madison grocery store. About 75 people showed up. Kristie will create a survey to get ideas from residents as to what they want in a full-service grocery store. The current Pick 'n Save (soon to close) doesn't only serve south-side residents, but also commuters and nearby workers, so Kristie wants a robust Wrap-and-Go section to accommodate lunch buyers. The south-side grocery store has been high on Tag's priorities since getting elected. It is slated to open by the end of 2023 and will be part of a building with 150 units of affordable housing, whose first residents will be moving in this month.
- Tag attended a meeting at Neighborhood House to discuss the redevelopment of their community center. They plan on demolishing the current building, temporarily moving to

leased premises for a couple of years and constructing a new six-story building to house the community center, a gym, and four stories of affordable housing above.

- An incoming new business will be applying for a liquor license for the former Hair salon premises on Monroe St.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Dennis reviewed DMNA's income and expenses for June.

Income: Total \$5.99

Expenses: Total: \$2,296.35

Current Membership: 769

The treasurer's report was accepted by unanimous vote.

Kathy received a \$200 check to DMNA from a neighbor at the July 4 event Phyllis Gillespie, which will show up in next month's report.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- None

AGENDA ITEMS

- Wingra Park First Fridays Music – Lisa Grueneberg. DMNA is now an official sponsor of the First Friday events. The poster now bears the DMNA logo. Plans for a DMNA presence at the July 7th First Friday were discussed. Parks Dept allows us to give out free beer, but if we want to charge for beer (e.g., \$7-8 per 16oz cup, as Westmoreland NA did at their most recent event), the license fee starts at \$600. Tag said there must be a rate for a one-evening event for a non-profit and offered to look into it. Dennis argued that as a neighborhood association, DMNA should be providing a service or value for our members, so we shouldn't charge for beer, especially since our finances are robust, but simply ask for donations instead. It was agreed that we should offer free beer at the next event. Rachel said she would be willing to purchase a keg but can't commit to staffing a table. Josh moved that DMNA allot \$300 from the Social Committee budget to purchase a keg of beer for the First Friday event on July 7th. Lisa seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Lisa will print out a QR code that will route to DMNA's PayPal page for donations, and a QR code to sign up for DMNA E-news. We will also have a no-change donation jar. Michael suggested we have a signup list next to the donation jar for anyone interested in volunteering with DMNA. Diego will man the table.
- Good Neighbor Gathering Update – Brad Boyce. The GNG will take place September 10 at Brittingham Park. Donors from last year continued their support. Total budget is \$16,000. A representative from Neighborhood House is helping out, as is New Culture Church leader Abbie Sawczak. Insurance and accounting have

been taken over by Neighborhood House and by next year DMNA will no longer be involved handling the finances for the event.

- DMNA 2023 Neighborhood Directory – Catherine. The directory is almost ready to go to print at AlphaGraphics. Catherine asked how many copies she should order— 1200 or 1600? After some discussion and input from Kathy Engebretsen and Marie Nitschke, it was decided that we need at least 1200, but not as many as 1600. Catherine will make the final call in consultation with Kathy, Sandy, Diego and Dennis.
- Lisa moved that DMNA approve rollover of the unused balance in the 2018-2019 Capital Fund (designated for technology) to unsegregated funds, because the Communications committee currently has no major new expenditures planned. Carole pointed out that having those funds available in unsegregated resources will be important, because we may need to transfer the Hornblower ad subscription functions to some other form of business utility that might coordinate with the website. Lisa is researching that, as we may need to pay for a service. Our new mailing system, MailerLite, is free for under 1,000 subscribers. Carole seconded the motion, which passed.
- Carole – Hornblower website migration. Covered under discussion of Lisa’s technology budget request, above.
- Carole noted that the Water Quality Grant has a significant balance and asked if that project has been completed and all payments made? Sandy replied no. Wingra School has a new principal and the project has been delayed. It should be resolved by the end of this year.
- Kathy noted that if we have no ideas for this year’s Capital Fund, she will tell Block Captains canvassing for the 2023 Fall membership drive to say we have no set fund. Carole said that in past years we have collected funds for activities that required neighbors to submit proposals which were then judged by committees. Place-making was one of those at one time. This would be a way to generate a different level of involvement. Carole will look in her files to see what information she has in relation to that. Josh said, re possible placemaking activities in the outdoor space next to Monroe Commons, that he has been looking into the instruments in public spaces idea and found that the City will not allow instruments to be installed there for more than 60 days. Even then, a \$2,000 permit would be required. Josh is waiting on Parks Dept’s response to the idea of installing an instrument in Wingra Park.

Lisa moved to adjourn. Sandy seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Catherine Jagoe