
DMNA Council Meeting Minutes for 08/02/23

6:45 pm, Zoom remote call

IN ATTENDANCE

Diego Saenz, Catherine Jagoe, Daryl Sherman, Jake Dean, Carole Kantor, Kathy Engebretsen, Tag Evers, Annie Balch, Sandy Stark, Dave Leeper, Josh Napravnik, Michael Schneider, 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 July meeting minutes.

ALDER'S REPORT

- The Common Council meeting last night was the only one for August. It lasted to midnight, debating whether to approve a 90-day pilot program for Madison Police Dept to wear body cameras. The pilot was approved 16-4.
- The city released a draft of its 2023 Housing Snapshot Report last week. Madison is seeing a loss in lower-income households and a gain in higher-income households. The newest units being built are among the least affordable. The rental vacancy rate is well below healthy levels. Increasing numbers of high-income households are moving to the city and competing for high-end and middle-tier housing, driving up housing costs. Over 11,000 low-income households are “renting up,” (ie., paying over 30% of their income for housing). We need a lot more housing at all different price levels, including market-rate housing. Families leaving the city because they cannot afford housing means less revenue for the school system. Tag wants to set up a task force within the Housing Committee that would meet every other week for the next 18-24 months, to deal with this crisis. Tag invited DMNA’s Zoning Committee to collaborate with him to identify parcels and lots that could be upzoned for an affordable housing project. Josh agreed and will follow up.

Dave Leeper recommends reading *Poverty, by America* by Matthew Desmond, on the housing crisis and what drives it.

- Tag is also working on to make it legal to keep a miniature pig in the city, after public outcry supporting Rudi the pig on Commonwealth.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Diego reviewed DMNA's income and expenses for July, in Dennis' absence.

Income: Total \$399.66

Expenses: Total: \$1,107.29

Current Membership: 770

The treasurer's report was accepted by unanimous vote.

Carole noted there was a nice variety of expenses that reflected a lot of DMNA activities, which is good. Dave noted that since interest rates are changing so much, he hopes Dennis is moving our funds around to get the best rates. Sandy said he is. Kathy asked if the expenses she sent Dennis on Friday will be entered in this month's statement. The amount was under \$50. She will email Dennis to check.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- First Friday at Wingra Update: The keg DMNA supplied in July for this event was used up, even though turnout was rather low due to the rainy weather that day. It went really well. We recovered all our expenses through donations. Diego would like to continue or even increase to 1.5 or 2 kegs for this Friday. Josh suggested 1.5 kegs, to get two different varieties of beer. For July, we spent far less than the \$300 allocated, around \$170. Diego suggested a budget of \$400-\$500 and will buy compostable cups from CostCo. Rachel thinks we should print a larger QR code and put it next to the keg so that people don't keep asking if they have to pay for the beer. She also suggests signup sheets for committees that need people. Dave moved that we allocate up to \$500 for this month's First Friday, to be spent at Josh's discretion, seconded by Daryl. Unanimously approved.

AGENDA ITEMS

- DMNA 2023 Neighborhood Directory – Catherine Jagoe. The first set of page proofs for the 2023 Directory were missing quite a lot of information that had been entered by Kathy and Marcia earlier this year. Missing updates largely involved occupation and children's names. This seems to have been a problem with a database update. Because we didn't realize the extent of the problem, Catherine had already made hours of small corrections to the file, which rules out running a clean-up program. A group of volunteers worked through about one-third of the paper membership forms, comparing them to the database entries, and flagging mistakes, which Catherine

fixed. Given the size of the problem, however, after several hours of this we decided to go ahead with the directory as is. We will add a note acknowledging that errors exist and explaining that residents may correct their entries by re-entering them in DMNA membership database online or on the fall membership forms. The directory is still on target to be printed by Labor Day.

- Annual contract renewal for Steve Abercrombie, our Hornblower layout designer – Carole Kantor. There have been issues of conflict of interest in the past and DMNA came up with the policy requiring a contract for any DMNA contractor work performed over \$1,000. The contract has to be renewed annually. Steve Abercrombie is an excellent designer of the Hornblower. Carole requested approval of Steve’s contract for the coming year, a copy of which was provided to Council members. Seconded by Dave. Unanimously approved.
- R-Sale – Dave Leeper. The R-Sale is scheduled for August 19, from 8am-2pm. Ten families have signed up already. Contact Char if interested in joining. St Vincent’s won’t collect as a group, but individuals can contact them. Someone will collect clothing at the end to donate to refugees at the border. A map will be made available. R-Sale has no funds budgeted. This year they would like a \$35 banner. Dave moved that the Social Justice committee be allotted a budget of \$100 for 2023-2024. Seconded by Sandy. She recommended going to Bob’s Copy Shop for the banner because they have good prices.
- Speaker for DMNA – Dave Leeper: Bob Block talked with Charlie Tubbs, Dane County Director of Emergency Disaster Planning. Charlie is willing to come talk to DMNA about neighborhood preparedness for disasters and emergency planning. The SJC would like to propose him as a speaker for our annual meeting. Diego said we could have a speaker this fall, since we didn’t have one in April at our general meeting on Zoom. Dave will follow up with the SJC and propose a date and time on a fall Sunday afternoon.
- Donations for food-insecure students – Dave Leeper. Over \$900 was collected for this SJC program over the summer in donations via Venmo through Lissa Koop. The money has been forwarded to the school district. This method is proving very effective—much more than dropping off supplies on Bob’s porch. Kathy suggested putting a note about it in the Hornblower.
- Josh says Regent St liquor’s half-keg options were limited or nonexistent. Will look elsewhere or get two whole kegs.

Daryl moved to adjourn. Carole seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Catherine Jagoe