
DMNA Council Meeting Minutes for 12/07/22

6:45 pm, Zoom remote call

IN ATTENDANCE

Diego Saenz, Catherine Jagoe, Kathy Engebretsen, Lisa Grueneberg, Carole Kantor, Tracy Lewis, Jake Dean, Tom Huber, Marie Trest, Marie Nitschke, Shawn Schey, Dennis Trest, Sandy Stark, Michael Schneider, Tag Evers, Marc Gartler, Gloria Reyes (mayoral candidate)

PROCEDURAL

- Call to Order: 6:47 p.m.
- There was a unanimous vote to approve the agenda with two last-minute additions.
- There was a unanimous vote to approve the November 2 meeting minutes.

ALDER'S REPORT

- Common Council last night approved millions more in funding for new affordable housing projects, and unanimously approved two important transportation items, the Metro Transit Network Redesign and the new Transportation Demand Management (TDM) policy.
- Common Council also bestowed the 16th Annual Jeffrey Erlanger Civility in Public Discourse Award to Alexis London, the Executive Director of Bayview Foundation.
- Transit Oriented Development overlay zoning will be considered by the Plan Commission December 12 and goes back to Common Council on January 3. Tag thinks it's a good thing for our city.
- Tag has scheduled a Public Information Meeting for D13 residents on December 19 at 7pm via Zoom, so that City staff (Katie Bannon and Matt Tucker) can explain the proposed changes to the zoning code's definition of "family." Currently, in a non-owner-occupied housing unit in parts of D13, the number of unrelated adults allowed is limited to two. The changes, which were proposed for equity reasons, would allow up to five unrelated adults and their dependents; there would be various other changes also. There is concern among residents that changing the ordinance will lead to a proliferation of rental and student housing. Look for the Zoom link in DMNA news updates.
- There was to be a conference of the attorneys on the Edgewood lawsuit earlier this week, but it has been postponed, at the request of the judge, until early January.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Dennis reviewed DMNA's income and expenses for November.

Income: Total: \$5,327.90

Expenses: Total: \$1,382.59

Current Membership: 657 (target is 700).

The November Treasurer's Report was accepted by unanimous vote after an amendment was made.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- Doug Carlson is new president of Vilas Neighborhood Association; he has been corresponding with Diego. There is a new restaurant slated for the Brasserie V location on Monroe St. The owners will present at next VNA meeting. They need neighborhood support as they wish to apply for a liquor license (which Brasserie V did not have, since it served only beer and wine). Diego will attend the VNA meeting and report back to us.
- We have no Social Chair at present. Could anyone help with the snow sculpture competition? In the past we set up a low-effort website and all that is needed is to post photos and locations as contestants submit. Diego thought Billy might be prevailed upon to do that. Carole suggested asking Annie Balch to contact her Solstice Bonfire volunteers, since they are winter folk. Sandy will get the list of those volunteers to Diego.
- Diego reported that he and the Edgewood Liaison Committee are preparing media statements in the event there is a ruling by the judge on the Edgewood lawsuit. They have drafted three statements for the three foreseeable outcomes, so DMNA is ready to respond to the press whatever happens, and we are not scrambling, as we so often are.

AGENDA ITEMS

- Gloria Reyes spoke to the Council about her mayoral campaign. She was raised in Madison, attending East HS, Madison College and UW-Madison. She has worked in public service her whole career. She was a law enforcement officer with Madison Police Dept. for 13 years. She was Deputy Mayor for Paul Soglin and President of Madison School Board. Currently CEO of Briarpatch Youth Services and has a consulting business, Reyes Public Safety, which she launched in 2019. Her platform: she wants to focus on crime prevention, education, an economic plan for Covid recovery, affordable housing, and the environment.

Ms Reyes took questions about her policy on public safety, transportation, the Monroe St library and education as important to the health of the city community. She stressed that she intends to lead by listening, and actively solicits citizen input over the next four months prior to the election. Find out more at her website, reyesformayor.com.

- Diego and Shawn: The DMNA Zoning Committee discussed potential impacts of TOD along the new transit corridors at their recent meeting. Concerns were raised in relation to the following, which the Zoning Committee will continue to monitor as the program unfolds (note that the ZC merely wanted to share these concerns with the Council for now. This is not a position statement):
 - 1) potential loss of trees and greenspace
 - 2) ability to maintain the historic character of Dudgeon-Monroe absent design review of new construction

3) potential detrimental impact of absentee landlord properties. The ordinance restricting properties to owners only might be going away.

Shawn explained the process will be more streamlined for developers. 4 floors, possibly 5, will be allowed instead of 3 with a 4th set back. Single family homes could be remodeled into duplexes and have ADUs on their property as well. The Zoning Committee sees some potential problems with this. Loss of greenspace is going to happen if people add more density to their properties. No ordinances exist to protect greenspace and trees on private property. Also, designs for new apartment buildings have no standards for review.

Tag's response: Heather Stouder says TOD will not affect greenspace since it would involve duplexes on the same footprint as a single-family home. Should not involve more tree removals.

- Carole Kantor is still looking for another co-editor to work with her and Jake in the year until she steps down next year as Hornblower editor. She urged Council members to look for volunteers.

Carole moved to adjourn. Sandy seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Catherine Jagoe.