
DMNA Council Meeting Minutes for 10/5/22

6:45 pm, Zoom remote call

IN ATTENDANCE

Diego Saenz, Catherine Jagoe, Dennis Trest, Tom Huber, Kathy Engebretsen, Ann Clark, Shoshauna Shy, Lisa Grueneberg, Daryl Sherman, Marie Trest, Tag Evers, Sandy Stark, Marc Gartler, Josh Napravnik.

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 September 7 meeting minutes.

ALDER'S REPORT

Transit Oriented Development: City held a Zoom meeting on this last month. Good turnout. City Staff estimates Madison will have 100,000 new residents by 2050. Tag reiterated that it makes sense to encourage future growth to take place along high-frequency routes, with bus service every 15 minutes, which would include BRT lines and S. Park and Monroe St. The goal is to incentivize more density and infill by broadening the permitted use of properties in a given zoning area. There has been pushback from Bay Creek, Greenbush and Vilas NAs in response to the TOD proposals. The topic will go to Common Council for a vote by the end of November. Tag is generally in favor of the modest changes proposed, which would allow single-family homes in Dudgeon-Monroe to be converted to duplexes and raise the building height limit in certain districts, e.g., along Monroe St.

Q & A: Josh, Diego and Marie are concerned about stipulating owner occupancy of future new duplexes. They see it as a burdensome requirement that would prevent any real expansion of housing. Ann prefers a more conservative approach. Marc is nervous about out-of-town ownership by single corporations because of possible discrimination against low-income residents. Shawn is concerned about developers buying home with ADUs to rent out for AirBnbs. Tag said the latter is not allowed currently anyway.

Forest Hills Cemetery: a proposal to change the cemetery from dog-friendly to dog-free (language is confusing: "dog-free" means dogs would be completely banned) will be considered by Parks Commissioners on November 9. Currently Forest Hills Cemetery is "dog-friendly," i.e., dogs are allowed there on leash, thanks in part to Tag's earlier advocacy. In the last two or three years, he has seen one or two dogs in the cemetery unleashed. If you are a dog owner who walks your leashed dog there and want that to continue, do attend and make your views known, or email the commissioners prior to the meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Dennis reviewed DMNA's income and expenses for September.

Income: \$4,781.48. Expenses: \$2,912.61. Current 2022-23 Membership: 75

The Treasurer's Report was accepted by unanimous vote.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- Diego received a request to place a geocache near the bulletin board next to the bike path at 598 Glenway St. Marc, Marie and Ann are in favor. Sandy said the bulletin board is owned by Friends of Lake Wingra, and Parks owns the land. Sandy says we should let FoLW know of this request as a courtesy. After discussion, it was agreed that Diego will email the requester explaining that DMNA has no objection, but will cc FoLW.

AGENDA ITEMS

- Decision needed on **DMNA Donation to the Fall 2022 Good Neighbor Gathering** (Dennis). We supported it with a \$500 donation this year, but the event was canceled due to rain. Jan O'Neill has asked us whether we want the money returned, donated to GNG for other uses or carried forward to next year. She hopes we will leave the money with GNG. One possible use for it would be to help fund Greenbush NA launch a newsletter. Ann moved we request the \$500 be returned. Seconded by Daryl. Motion passed unanimously.
- **Volunteer Recruitment Efforts** (Diego). Finding new DMNA volunteers continues to be a challenge. Ann said there has been virtually no response to the insert in the HB appealing for volunteers. Kathy noted that volunteers have dwindled over the years. We only got about 5 last year; maybe 10-15 a year, at most, pre-Covid. Sandy stressed that we need to recruit younger members. Many people she knows don't read the HB. She advocates using social media instead of HB article and inserts, as a way to reach more potential volunteers. Our current methods are not working any longer. We need to adapt to the times.

Josh suggested holding smaller, less labor-intensive social gatherings, like wine tasting at Mystery to Me, or gatherings at Garth's Brew Pub. The Westmorland Park neighborhood party a few weeks ago was a huge success. There were some kid-focused bands, beer and wine and lots of families. Maybe we could hold events there? It has a pavilion which means the event can continue in bad weather. Ann said we have a long history of having smaller events like that with success. We could offer a wider variety of them. She feels that we need to target newcomers to the neighborhood and new retirees. Marc suggested advertising with flyers at public libraries. Council members brainstormed about possible types of events. Events at city parks can be costly—Parks Dept charges \$150 to use a shelter. There are also fire department, food vendor, and insurance costs. Diego suggested we email each other ideas to keep this conversation going.

Sandy moved to adjourn. Ann seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Catherine Jagoe.