
DMNA Council Meeting Minutes for 09/06/23

6:45 pm, Zoom remote call

IN ATTENDANCE

Diego Saenz, Catherine Jagoe, Daryl Sherman, Carole Kantor, Kathy Engebretsen, Shawn Schey, Jake Dean, Lisa Grueneberg, Dennis Trest, Marcia Diamond, Annie Balch, Tag Evers, Sandy Stark

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 August meeting minutes.

ALDER'S REPORT

- The Board of Health meeting amendment to allow Madisonians to keep a pet pig was passed, with the requirement that they be spayed or neutered. Good news for fans of Rudi the Pig on Commonwealth.
- Continued good work being done by Lake Wingra Heritage Plan Task Force, especially as regards protecting the viewshed, not just the water quality. The view around Lake Wingra is beautiful, but as the city grows more buildings will become visible from the lake. Tag wants to start a discussion with Planning Dept on guidelines regarding such buildings' height, and discouraging bright lighting or illuminated signage that would affect the Lake Wingra viewshed at night.
- Council Meeting last night discussed whether to move forward with Affordable Housing Task Force. Have not yet decided.
- There was a special Plan Commission meeting to consider updates to the City of Madison's Comprehensive Plan which provides a framework for long-term growth and development in the city. Several changes were proposed to the land use map for D13, but most were not recommended by PC for approval, e.g., from low-residential to low-med residential. The recommendation that Tag helped write did pass, changing the south side of Regent St from neighborhood mixed use (up to 4 stories) to community mixed use (2-6 stories). This should help speed approval for plans for proposed buildings above 4 stories on Regent St, which would benefit businesses and retail along Monroe St because it would create increased density. Diego asked if that change affects the setback requirements. Tag is not sure and will ask about that. He said that his constituents are

concerned about how these changes will impact the nature of our neighborhood, but Tag thinks we need to create density along our transit routes to relieve pressure on our district.

- Tag got a postcard giving notice that public hearing applications were filed for demolition of a home at 617 Knickerbocker St. Will be heard at the Sep 18 Plan Commission session. If you have concerns about that, let Tag know.
- Don't forget the Good Neighbor Gathering on Sunday at Brittingham Park, the third time it has been held. A way to get all the neighborhoods in D13 together—family-friendly event with no alcohol served.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Dennis reviewed DMNA's income and expenses for August.

Income: Total \$4,547.22

Expenses: Total: \$4,455.99

Current Membership: 5

The treasurer's report was accepted by unanimous vote.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- August's First Friday at Wingra - Update. Diego has prepared a spreadsheet on the three First Friday events of this year. We spent a little bit more money each time. First time we bought one keg; the second time two kegs plus lemonade. The third and last event was three smaller kegs and more lemonade. Expenses last time were close to \$500. Donations have increased from \$100- \$600. Our net cost was only \$84. Diego got very positive feedback from people about the event and the beer/lemonade. Shawn asked if there is a cutoff time for the music? The event is billed as being from 6-8 pm, sometimes goes a little bit longer but not much. Lisa asked if there have been any complaints about noise, Lisa has not heard any though she can hear the noise from her house on the bike path. Shawn said we have opposed amplified music at Edgewood, so we don't want First Friday music to continue during the fall. Will it be daylight only? How do we defend this if we need to vis a vis Edgewood? Diego said that when the sun sets there is no artificial light. By 8 it is pretty dark, and the music is winding down as everyone leaves. Sandy said there should be clear communication to the musicians and sound system that they shouldn't hang around and continue to make music after the event ends. Sandy said she could hear it from the top of the cemetery. The First Friday in June you could barely hear the music outside the park, but they have noticeably amped up the volume since. We need to communicate that for next year. Is DMNA running it next year or are Tyler and Anne-Marie doing it? Diego says Tyler is amenable to doing it again. Shawn says there is a way to have music and a good time in the park without it bothering neighbors—it doesn't need to be so loud. You should have to go to the park to hear the music, not hear it all over the neighborhood. Diego said we should figure out how to dial down the volume a bit, but overall he is really pleased with the outcome and attendance and enthusiasm. It is good publicity for the neighborhood association.

- Monroe St. Festival – 10am-5pm Sept. 9th Monroe St.
- Good Neighbor Gathering – 12-5pm Sept. 10th Brittingham Park

AGENDA ITEMS

- Update on Directory – Catherine Jagoe. The directory printing has been significantly delayed due to staffing shortages and general lack of efficiency at AlphaGraphics. They had promised they could get it done by Labor Day but have not delivered. However, they have assured her it will be ready within a couple of weeks. There was some discussion of how to make the directory easier to compile in future by switching to a more modern database. Lisa explained that David Hoffert proposed this some years ago but met with stiff opposition from Al Nettleton because of concerns that any cloud-based database would not protect residents' data privacy. Catherine suggested we discuss this again at a future meeting.
- Discussion and correction of SW Path Committee Budget – Sandy Stark
Sandy thinks that due to her bout of Covid, she missed a critical meeting for setting the budget for the SW Path Committee. Currently, the Path Committee are going to run out of money this fall. Dennis suggested bringing it to Council to get \$500 added to the Path Committee budget. Sandy moved the SW Path Budget be allocated an increased \$500 to continue their work. Daryl seconded. Motion approved unanimously.
On a second issue, Sandy explained the Water Quality Grant belongs to the Parks & Gardens Committee. They have a little extra money as their costs turned out to be lower than anticipated thanks to help from the Arboretum. Jake B and Sandy suggested part of the extra be used for maintaining and taking care of the rain garden. Sandy suggests donating the remainder to another organization that has rain gardens or prairies, one that supported us at the festival. Diego said this is a good and responsible thing to do with the funds.
- Social Chair Interest – Diego Saenz. Diego has enjoyed the First Fridays and is interested in being the Social Chair. It would give him more flexibility to work on events and to spend money already allotted in the Social Committee. Lisa moved and Kathy seconded that Diego be appointed as Social Committee Chair. Approved by unanimous vote.
- Annual Meeting Social Portion – Diego is looking at setting up an event at Garth Brew Pub, possibly with pie and a presentation on DMNA history by Lisa.

Carole moved to adjourn. Sandy seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
Meeting adjourned at 7:41 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Catherine Jagoe