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# *DMNA Council Meeting Minutes for 11/01/23*

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## **IN ATTENDANCE**

Diego Saenz, Marie Trest, Dennis Trest, Tom Huber, Laura Checovich, Carole Kantor, Lisa Grueneberg, Kathy Engebretsen, Ann Clark, Michael Schneider, Marc Gartler, Kathryn Lederhause, Tracy Lewis, Dave Leeper, Sandy Stark, Daryl Sherman, Josh Naprovnik, Tag Evers

## **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 October meeting minutes.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Dennis reviewed DMNA's income and expenses for October.

Income: Total \$9460.99

Expenses: Total: \$50

Current Membership: 335

The treasurer's report was accepted by unanimous vote.

The Friday family and Thrivent were thanked for their generous donations.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Happy Halloween! Nice to see neighbors out and visiting the haunted house on Commonwealth.

Mary Lynch, HOA for Monroe St Commons, asked about Dudgeon Monroe Neighborhood sign for Monroe and West Lawn. [history - our previous sign was not not be re-installed on city property; the sign used to be at the area by Trader Joe's]. The sign was supposed to go at the Monroe/West Lawn/Spooner intersection (Monroe Commons).

Discussion:

Daryl said a previous sign was installed by neighborhood volunteers at the end of Monroe St.

Josh indicated there was right of way/sight issue according to the City; a lawsuit about an accident with a different sign may be the reason signs are on hold. He will follow up with a previous City Attorney email about signs, copying Tag and Diego.

## **ALDER'S REPORT**

-This is Tag's third neighborhood association meeting of the night.

-The North/South Bus Rapid Transit planning is starting. Virtual meeting next Wednesday, Nov 8. It will go to airport.

-The Plan Commission voted to approve development of a full service café Starbucks, modified from a previous drive-thru only proposal. Tag dropped opposition, and the proposal passed unanimously.

- Tag has started conversation with Matt Tucker and Mike Haas to review city noise ordinance. Looking into the right way to go about it. They are researching what other cities have done. Some have banned gas-powered leaf blowers; this may raise questions about other gas-powered machines. Curious to find out what other cities have done and what the response has been.

- The City budget process is underway. Tag proposed more neighborhood center support. The Mayor proposed a 5% increase in early child education; Tag proposed an amendment for 2.5% more. Public deliberations are coming up before final vote on budget.

Discussion:

Question asked Tag about the DMNA sign; Josh will email as described above.

Ann said leaf blowers are loud and damaging.

Diego wondered how a ban might work, for example, it could ban future sales. What would happen for local landscaping businesses, would it be expensive to switch gear? Maybe there could be a subsidy for businesses switching.

Laura said electric can be more expensive, and everyone may not be able to afford that option.

Dave asked if City blowers are gas powered. Monona has leaf vacuums which take up leaf crumb at curbside and require the use of fewer vehicles; Madison has said they cannot do the same.

Diego: there would also need to be consideration of enforcement from an equity standpoint. A ban has passed in Montgomery County, MD.

Several neighbors said they leave their leaves or rake them; some have found affordable re-chargable electric blowers for some tasks.

Tag reminded everyone about new parking restrictions on local streets: one day a week for 3.5 hours. This allows access for street sweeping and snow removal. Enforcement will be lax initially.

Carole said there will be an article in the Hornblower about the new parking signs and snow emergency parking.

## **AGENDA ITEMS**

- Vice President Nomination (Laura Checovich) – Diego Saenz

Laura interested in VP position. Typically the Nominating Committee proposes candidates for nomination and then council needs to vote on the slate to present to the general membership at the annual meeting. (Shawn and Marie were appointed to a nominating committee and were unable to find a VP candidate before the last annual meeting)

What should the process be? Nominating committee or just future vote?

Dennis reads bylaws (2019 revision):

4.4.1. The officers of the organization shall be elected by the general membership. Officers shall serve for approximately one year, from the end of the annual meeting of the general membership at which they are elected, to the end of the next annual meeting of the general membership, except that they shall remain in office until their successors have been duly elected or appointed. Any member in good standing who is not an elected public official may, with his/her consent, be nominated or appointed as an officer of the organization.

4.4.2. If an officer is removed or resigns mid-term, an interim officer shall be nominated by the remaining officers and approved by the Council to serve until the next meeting of the general membership.

The executive committee will discuss making a nomination to hold a future vote.

Sandy asked if could Laura tell us more about herself and why she'd like the job

Laura now lives on the 2200 block of Keyes. As a lifelong madison resident, growing up in Westmoreland, she recently moved to Dudgeon Monroe where she serves as block captain. She has public committee experience and was student representative on the school board in high school. She feels she could be helpful in supporting public events for DMNA and in working in collaboration with businesses in DMNA.

- Storage of DMNA Materials – Sandy Stark

Many people are storing things in houses, basements, attics, and garages for DMNA, from tools to written materials. Sandy has Path committee boxes, Parks Committee boxes, and Sue Reindollar materials about signage, maps, and drawings of prairies, which provide a history of the SW bike path. Some should be saved for legal or historical reasons (e.g. to check donation for a particular park use).

There are also materials at Wingra School in the basement; this area is full. There is an inventory on DMNA.org.

Diego: could we pay someone to scan everything? If no one knows what there is and how to find it, it might as well not exist.

Sandy: not everything needs scanning. Some could be disposed of but it takes time to sort and decide. We should have location that is safe and waterproof, for everything.

Dennis said many items are in a DMNA trailer on MG&E property in another neighborhood. He has 3 crates of financial documents. There are things all over neighborhood. We should consider consolidating in one location and should inventory everything. Some financial documents need to be kept. find out what can be disposed of. Should we rent a storage locker? All material would be inventoried before it goes in prioritizing materials with functional or historical value.

Ann said notes from previous meetings, such as agreements and statements such as that Edgewood would not build a field, can be important historical documents. Who would archive everything?

Sandy would work with Dennis on processing materials.

Lisa has 4 bankers' boxes of archives from Kurt Kiefert with SW path and Edgewood stuff in there. Noted it's hardest to determine what to cull.

Dennis: As a librarian, I would say we may find value in things that we might not expect to now.

Marc: As a public librarian I would say throw it all out.

Marie: Would a storage locker work for access? Would it be a good option if it is not located in the neighborhood?

Laura said storage lockers could have temporary digital access options to share as needed.

Dennis said most items do not need to be accessed often. Tools might be kept locally for gardening season

Dennis would be part of committee to explore storage options with Sandy, Lisa, and Ann.

- E-bikes and speed on paths and streets – Tracy Lewis

E-bikes are speeding on roads and paths creating dangerous situations

Tag said there have been complaints about E-bikes on bike path. Discussed signage about slowing down. People have brought up concerns about vehicle speed on Commonwealth and other side streets. They could go into Safe Streets program queue.

Concerns expressed about Monroe St including speeding, passing on right, not stopping for crosswalks, running red lights at Edgewood College and West Lawn, including left turns.

Tag said to call city non-emergency line or website forms and report a problem. Police need to hear from more people that there is a problem. In the past some enforcement has occurred and then problems come back. Could ask officer to come to DMNA meeting.

Tom said there are three classes of E-bikes in state statutes. All are allowed under state law on bike paths. City can regulate class three (up to 28 mph, must pedal) bikes on bike paths. Class 2 do not have to pedal, and can go 18mph.

Ann: new E-bikes can go 38mph.

Michael said the transportation committee discussed ebikes in May 2020 and issued statement to city about concerns. They did not suggest particular change but asked city to monitor as E-bikes become more common. He could discuss with committee any actions to take. A lot of issues revolve around speed. DMNA has done some actions in the past to slow down traffic like a pace car or signs on Monroe St.

Tag said the City can provide temporary speed boards. It might be helpful to have association draft something about traffic speed on Monroe and other streets and about the intersection Monroe/West Lawn/Spooner/Grant. There are hundreds of complaints coming in to City Staff. But, they could do traffic studies regarding left turn signals, calming measures, etc.

Josh noted E-bikes can help reduce the number of cars on the road.

Michael: the transportation committee language was careful because of that; safety issues relate to speed and proximity to pedestrians, especially on path. This is a matter of etiquette, not bans.

Ann: is it unrealistic to enforce speed limit on path (or street), could cameras be used?

Tag: State law prevents camera enforcement. May be pilot program in Milwaukee.

- Social Justice Dave Leeper

Bob Block has written an article for the Hornblower about collection of food for homeless school children in district. He will retire from this activity. Lissa has been using a Venmo account to collect funds to purchase food. Unless someone wants to take on this project, the work will be considered complete.

Dave proposed a Motion - The council would like to express appreciation for Bob Block's efforts to provide food to homeless children in our school district for so many years.

Second Tracy, unanimously approved.

Sandy moved to adjourn. Daryl seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Marie Trest, substituting for Catherine Jagoe.*