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# *DMNA Council Meeting Minutes for 02/07/2024*

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6:45 pm, Zoom remote call

## **IN ATTENDANCE**

Diego Saenz, Marc Gartler, Catherine Jagoe, Daryl Sherman, Ann Clark, Tom Huber, Kathy Engebretsen, Jake Dean, Lisa Grueneberg, Carole Kantor, Annie Balch, Tag Evers, Sandy Stark

## **PROCEDURAL**

- Call to Order: 6:45 p.m.
- There was a unanimous vote to approve the agenda with three additions.
- There was a unanimous vote to approve the January meeting minutes with one correction.

## **ALDER'S REPORT**

- **Common Council:** there was a controversial vote last week on a proposed 60% pay raise for Alders. The proposal did not pass. Right now, alders make approximately \$14/ hour for 20 hours a week, though effectively it is less, since many work more hours than that. The City's lowest-paid full time employee makes \$18-19/hour and Tag thinks alders should be paid commensurate to that, given the impact of inflation and rent increases. He feels the low pay and heavy work-load discourage many people from serving as alders. **Marc** asked if it would help if neighborhood associations issued a statement of support for an aldermanic pay increase. Tag thinks it is a dead issue right now. It's a 15-vote item and some will never vote for it. He wants to work with Council on tactics and strategy before any pay-raise proposal comes up for a vote again. He has become one of the more senior alders, only a couple have been on the Common Council longer than him.
- **D13 news:** the new Bayview Community Center is finished and beautiful, both esthetically and functionally. They achieved Passive House Certification. It is a testament to the leadership of Alexis London.
- **Projects on Regent and Mills:** demolition will start on the former Jensen Auto lot on Regent St. Neighborhood House on Mills St is moving forward with the approval process for their redevelopment plan to build a 6-story, mixed-use building with 4 floors of affordable housing.
- **Grocery for South Park St:** it has been delayed but is still moving forward; Pick n Save is committed to remaining open until the project is completed.
- **Plans for Madison rail station.** Tag thinks it will not be located downtown for space reasons, more likely at the old Oscar Mayer plant, though if that site is chosen, it would require adding a shuttle to downtown and the airport.

- **Old Spring Tavern building:** Diego asked about the plan to build a large house on the now-divided lot and voiced concern that the new construction would impact one of the oldest trees in the neighborhood as well as the viewshed. Tag said he voted not to oppose it. The Landmarks Commission approved a new division of the property boundary allowing the two parcels to be sold. The owners modified the plan to protect the large black walnut tree and shrunk the size of the building.
- **City budget:** Ann has read in the press that this is the last “easy” budget—why is that? Tag answered that we hit the levy limit every year. The state legislature provides minimal funding support to Madison and severely restricts how the City may raise funds. The structural deficit has been in place for some time but was mitigated by federal funds; this fiscal year is the last time the City will be able to use any of those funds.

## **TREASURER’S REPORT**

Diego reviewed DMNA’s income and expenses for January in Dennis’ absence.

Income: Total \$47.16

Expenses: \$327.00

Current Membership: 776

Dennis opened two 13-month Certificates of Deposit on January 29th, for \$5,000.00 each @ 5.130%

Div rate (5.250% APY).

The treasurer’s report was accepted by unanimous vote.

## **PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

Covered in Agenda

## **AGENDA ITEMS**

- **2024 Annual Meeting Update** – Diego Saenz

Marie contacted the Friends Meeting House and booked it for April 13, from 2-4 p.m. Diego and Lisa found a speaker: Jennifer Giegerich, Government Affairs Director for the Wisconsin Conservation Voters, which works inside the Capitol to pass and defend pro-conservation policy. She will discuss how individuals can take steps to limit their carbon footprint, including how to leverage current incentives.

- **Winter Social at Garth’s** – Diego Saenz

The Winter Social at Garth’s Brew Bar went well, it was easy to work with Garth’s and Infusion (who provided the hot chocolate). It was a “buy one get one free” event, where DMNA covered the free beer and paid for the hot cocoa from Infusion. Historically we have done events that require a lot of work, but we are now aiming to hold more frequent but less labor-intensive get-togethers. About 15-20 people attended.

- **First Fridays Music Liaison** – Lisa Grueneberg/Diego Saenz

Tyler Leeper says he could use help lining up bands for this year's First Friday events. Anyone with ideas or contacts on the Madison band scene would be very welcome. Lisa and Diego will also follow up with Tag.

- **Upcoming Event at Camp Cantina** – Diego Saenz (in Marie's absence)

Marie is planning a \$1 taco event at Camp Cantina, for around March 16. Tacos would sell for \$1 and DMNA will cover the rest. We hope this will spur people to try a new local business.

- **Parks Committee Chair** – Sandy

No one has yet volunteered to replace Sandy as chair of the Parks or Path Committee when she steps down. The end of her tenure as chair of both will be announced in the next *Hornblower*. There are volunteers to work on both committees but none of them want to be chair. Sandy is concerned about how Parks Committee members will access the allotted Parks budget in the absence of a chair, and asked what the best strategy is. Until now, there has been a very small budget allotted for the Path and the rest has been paid out of pocket, but that should not be a habit going forward. Diego said it is acceptable for committee members to come to Council and request use of the budget on an as-needed basis, though it would be convenient if Sandy remained a titular chair (as she proposed) until a replacement steps up. Sandy agreed and said she would plan to attend 6 meetings a year going forward via Zoom, just to facilitate budget requests for Parks committee work. Percy Mather will send monthly reports about the orchard garden. Annie Balch is organizing a lot for the children's park. In welcome news, Sandy thinks she has found a place for the DMNA Parks trailer close to Wingra Park, thanks to Lauer Realty. They even volunteered to move the trailer with their pickup truck. It is not confirmed yet but looks hopeful. If there is a charge, it will likely be minimal.

- **Slate of nominees for Annual Meeting elections** – Lisa Grueneberg

The slate of nominees for officers is:

Diego Saenz, President  
Marc Gartler, Vice President  
Dennis Trest, Treasurer  
Catherine Jagoe, Secretary

The Nominating Committee has confirmed with all nominees that they are willing to serve. Nominations can also be taken from the floor at the time of the meeting. (Lisa checked the bylaws.) The slate of nominees was approved unanimously.

Lisa moved to adjourn. Marc seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:41pm.

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Catherine Jagoe.*