
DMNA Council Meeting Minutes for 07/06/22

6:45 pm, Zoom remote call

IN ATTENDANCE

Diego Saenz, Catherine Jagoe, Dennis Trest, Daryl Sherman, Brandon Wedig, Marie Trest, Brad Boyce, Dennis Trest, Marcia Diamond, Michael Schneider, Shawn Schey, Lisa Grueneberg, Annie Balch, Tag Evers, Marie Nitschke, Tracy Lewis, Marc Gartler, Ann Clark, 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 June 1 meeting minutes.

ALDER'S REPORT

Active shooter training: In his quarterly meeting with the local police, Tag spoke with Capt. Jason Freedman, chief of the Midtown District police, about the latest shooting at Highland Park parade. Would DMNA residents be interested in doing an active-shooter training at the police station? If so, let Tag know.

Glenway Woods: The City Parks Division is developing a Management and Sustainability Plan for Glenway Woods, the strip of land north of the bike path that borders Glen Golf Park and Forest Hills Cemetery. Glenway Woods does not currently have a park classification. It is popular with walkers, runners and dog owners, many of whom use it as an unofficial dog park by letting their dogs run on the trails off-leash. Dog owners will be lobbying for the area to be made an official dog park. (DMNA has discussed the possibility of a dog park there in the past and raised safety and environmental concerns, repeated here by Ann Clark.) The planning process will review existing uses as well as identify future improvements. Madison Parks Division applied for planning assistance from the National Park Service, and thanks to them, Michael Mencarini, a Community Planner with the Midwest Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Team, will serve as an advisor to the Parks Division for the next year. The planning process will take about one year, beginning this month. Public input is invited at two listening sessions, **July 13 , 1 pm – 5 pm and July 14, 1 pm – 7 pm, at Sequoya Library.** A National Park Service Community Planner will be available to gather input from residents. No appointments necessary.

Building energy savings program: this new City program will go ahead. It will help building owners identify opportunities to increase energy efficiency. Tag will post on his blog about this.

Traffic safety: There are ongoing concerns about speeding and traffic safety in every D13 neighborhood. Traffic continues to speed on Monroe and Commonwealth—should we hold a meeting on that topic with the Midtown district police? If residents wish to change the situation, they need to be more vocal to the City.

Michael Schneider responded that DMNA's Transportation Committee has requested speed data on Monroe St and is compiling it. They identified Commonwealth as an area for high speeds and interest in ideas on mitigating that. Tag has talked to Traffic and Engineering about possibly adding signage where the bike path crosses Commonwealth, or a combination of enforcement and new signage or road markings. Tag recommends that neighbors advocate with the City for those two streets to be recognized as part of the Safe Streets Program.

Common Council: At its next meeting on July 12, the City's Common Council move to a new hybrid in-person and online format. Although council members will be strongly encouraged to attend in person (although not mandated to do so), the public can attend virtually.

Poetry Stand at 2422 Fox Ave: Kate Edwards passed away recently. She has maintained a poetry stand in front of her home on little Fox for some years. Lailah Shima has been maintaining it until now but does not wish to continue. Tag suggested moving the poetry stand to where Sheldon crosses little Fox, but the City won't permit it. Tag would like us to find a new home for it, or it could rotate. It's a community asset worth preserving.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Dennis reviewed DMNA's income and expenses for June. The current membership total is 765. DMNA now has a debit card for its account, so committee members do not have to pay for expenses out of their personal accounts and then request reimbursement.

The Treasurer's Report was accepted by unanimous vote.

AGENDA ITEMS

2022-2023 Budget Discussion

Prior to Covid, DMNA had a balanced budget every year. But in 2020 we lost our deposits on, for example Jazz in the Park, and the draft 2022-23 budget that Dennis presented, based on committee requests he received, was a deficit budget. Dennis noted that this might detract from DMNA's ability to obtain grants. After lengthy debate about each line item, we arrived at a balanced budget. The two major changes to note were that we eliminated Jazz in the Park because no one has come forward to lead it and it is partially replaced by Make Music Madison. The other was a decision to remove a line item for the neighborhood directory, since that project is currently stalled, but to draw on the Capital Fund for directory expenses if it does go forward this financial year. Dennis provisionally calculates our total operating expenses for 2022-23 as \$17,433. He will submit the revised budget for Council review and vote.

Introduction of Brandon Wedig.

Brandon works on Monroe St, at LSM Chiropractic, and wants to be more involved in the community. He was unanimously approved as our new Social Chair. We are grateful to have him.

Update on Fourth of July Parade

Lisa Grueneberg reports that it was a huge success, with excellent attendance and great volunteers. The Fire Department provided a large sprinkler. The kids were very excited. Middle and High schoolers ran the little kids' games. All in all, it was a wonderful event and Lisa hopes it will be held every year from now on.

Update on Network Transit Redesign

Michael Schneider reported that Madison Metro Transit Network's redesign has been approved, with lots of amendments. The final plan includes an inbound bus down Monroe St every 15 minutes. The outbound route will split at Odana / Nakoma but will also run every 15 minutes. The redesign has added a connection to the zoo and to Olin Park. The new routes can be seen on this map:

<https://www.cityofmadison.com/metro/documents/network-redesign/FinalPlanMap.pdf>

Update on Edgewood Liaison Committee

Daryl reported that Edgewood is no longer honoring previous agreements with the neighbors from the Master Plan, even those that have nothing to do with the athletic field. The new Campus-Institutional zoning replaced everything that was in place earlier. Now those arrangements are dependent on good will and Edgewood doesn't bear us any. For example, trees have been cut down and not replaced. The College has opened up the gate to Woodrow and taken down all the signs, so it is now a major entry/exit point once again.

Diego said the Edgewood College library is a voting location in DMNA in addition to Wingra School, but people are getting parking tickets when voting there. It may become our default location, unless voters express concern about this parking problem to the City.

Paul Beckett memorial

Daryl noted that sadly, Paul Beckett, a longtime Madison resident, UW Professor of African Studies and former DMNA president, has died. His memorial is at the Friends Meeting House, 1704 Roberts Court, at 3pm on Sunday July 7. Paul's obituary, noting his service in many social justice and biking advocacy issues, is at <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/madison/name/paul-beckett-obituary?id=35561630>

Sandy moved to adjourn. Daryl seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Catherine Jagoe.