
DMNA Council Meeting Minutes for 05/04/22

6:45 pm, Zoom remote call

IN ATTENDANCE

Diego Saenz, Catherine Jagoe, Lisa Grueneberg, Carole Kantor, Daryl Sherman, Sandy Stark, Dennis Trest, Brad Boyce, Tag Evers, Dave Leeper, Shawn Schey, Tom Huber, Marie Trest, Ann Clark, Jason Mascitti.

PROCEDURAL

- Call to Order: 6:47 p.m.
- Approval of Agenda: there was a unanimous vote to approve the agenda.
- Minutes: there was a unanimous vote to approve the April 6 and April 24 meeting minutes.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Dennis reviewed DMNA's income and expenses for April, speaking from Germany, where he has unfortunately contracted Covid. Income: \$2.73 interest from Money Market; \$999.00 Clean Lakes Alliance Water Quality Grant; \$250.00 Water Quality from Midvale Heights Community Association; \$1,339.56 Good Neighbor Gathering donations; \$43.53 dues. Expenses: \$1,421.00 Insurance; \$60.00 for Leonard St Garden upkeep. Current membership total: 764. Dennis noted that DMNA expenditures have been quite low compared to other years, and we will not be contributing \$2,000 for the Science Thursdays this year.

The Treasurer's Report was accepted by unanimous vote.

ALDER'S REPORT

Edgewood update: Tag was deposed for almost eight hours last week in connection with Edgewood's second lawsuit against the city. He prepared by reviewing 3.5 years' worth of material on the issue, going back to October 2018. Edgewood's new attorneys are Godfrey and Kahn and the lawyer who deposed Tag was an Edgewood alum. Federal judge in this case is William Conway. Next, both sides will submit affidavits requesting that the judge settle the case in favor of one party or the other without going to trial by jury (this is known as "summary judgment"). The City attorneys think this is likely.

Traffic medians update: There are 650 traffic medians in city and roughly half are maintained by outside contractors. 25 medians, mainly along E. Washington, will now be converted to concrete. That's equivalent to 4% of medians in city. The ones selected are narrow and difficult to access safely. 10% are being converted to turf, with low-mow vegetation. There is a FAQ on this issue on Tag's blog post. The impact will be modest in terms of storm water. The city did a bad job of messaging this and residents only found out about it in the newspaper.

Update on property assessments. Property values have been going up nationwide, especially in Madison. There will be a 12% average increase in assessment. The market value went up higher, probably 20%.

The Assessor's Office suspects this might be a bubble, so is trying to hit middle ground. Alder Furman had a helpful Q&A that Tag references on his blog.

There is new leadership at the Common Council: D19 alder Keith Furman is Council President and D16 Jael Currie is Vice President. Tag will now serve on the Finance Committee at Mayor's invitation.

Glenway Golf Park has been rebranded Glen Golf Park. 28,000 native plant plugs are emerging. The park is slated to reopen July 1.

Lake Wingra Watershed Gathering coming up on May 21. This promises to be a fine event and dovetails with the efforts of the Lake Wingra Heritage Workgroup. There will be a Lake Blessing by Ho-Chunk elders on May 14 at 9:30 am at the Wingra Boathouse.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- The DMNA Annual Meeting at Edgewood College: Diego thanked Marie and Dennis for their help scheduling this but noted that this year the process was challenging and frustrating. At first, the College didn't reply to Diego or Marie's emails or phone calls. Then they kept imposing extra hurdles. Four days before the meeting, they asked for an insurance statement demonstrating that Edgewood was a covered party to the meeting. Dennis worked hard from abroad to make that happen. In the past, the fee has been waived, but this year they said there was no sponsoring party at Edgewood since the Liaison Committee had been disbanded, so they charged a fee of \$160 including the increase in insurance. Next year, we may want to consider a different venue. Ann suggested we consider Dudgeon School. Carole said that the lack of a Social Chair in place was a real handicap in this case. Billy was new and had stepped down as Social Chair.
- Tyler Leeper says Wingra Boats will not hold Science Thursday this year. This will allow us to recover \$2,000 allotted to it in our budget. It is sad that it's not happening, but Wingra Boats will run other activities and plan to bring it back next year.

AGENDA ITEMS

- \$250 Budget Request for the Lake Wingra Watershed Gathering, 1-4 pm May 21 in Vilas Park, by Sandy Stark. There will be family activities and associations in the Lake Wingra watershed will give demos of what each of them did. Ten organizations will be there, each focusing on a specific topic. They include lesser-known groups such as Wisconsin EcoLatinos, Two Ferns Native Nursery and Madison Engineering Division. There will be open spaces with kids' games and activities, tents for exhibits and demos, and a discussion tent. Program starts and ends with Andy Cloud, a Ho-Chunk member who will tell water stories. City Parks Dept is charging a fee for the Vilas Park shelter. Sandy is asking for \$250 from DMNA to help meet costs. Marie made a motion, seconded by Ann, to devote \$250 from the Science Thursdays to this. The motion passed.
- Diego and Catherine proposed asking Teri Venker to lead a trip this fall to the Indian Mounds on Mendota Mental Health Institute grounds north of Lake Mendota. Lisa Grueneberg will take the lead as the History Chair, and email Teri to discuss dates.

- \$650 Social Budget request for the 4th of July Parade - Lisa Grueneberg. The Monroe St Chocolate Shoppe has agreed to host in their parking lot. Event will be similar to 2019, the last time it was held. Decorating bikes in parking lot at Chocolate Shoppe at 9:15. DMNA provides decorating supplies. Then kids ride the route, ending up in Wingra Park. There will be tables with ice-cream, coffee and juice boxes, and kids' games run by middle and high schoolers, with a parent coordinator. Jason Mascitti from Thrivent is going to pay for food. Parks fee is \$150 and permit has been approved already. The budget request is to cover money for little prizes and food in case food donations are insufficient. Lisa's husband will be driving the fire truck. Carole moved that we allocate \$650 for the July 4 parade and children's event. Sandy seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- Venmo contributions now an option for the Social Justice Committee's healthy snacks program - Dave Leeper. The committee has added Venmo as an option for donating to food snacks for food-insecure students, in addition to delivering food items to Bob Block's house. Donations can be made to Lissa Koop, @Lissa-Koop9398. Lissa will use any funds contributed via her Venmo account to purchase snack items in bulk. Please be sure to add "school snacks" to the notes on your donation.

Ad hoc additions to the agenda

- Daryl asked that we discuss the many diseased ash trees in Wingra Park that will be cut down if no one donates to treatment for them. DMNA has committed in the past to paying for three or four trees to be treated four times; those trees are probably ok now. Sandy has asked Parks to identify which of the remaining trees are in the worst condition and likely wouldn't survive even with treatment. Tyler Leeper has asked Forestry to let him know how much money needs to be raised to treat all the trees. DMNA still has some money set aside for this in our segregated funds. Consensus was that we are prepared to help foot the bill for treating the trees. Daryl moved DMNA explore the possibility of raising up to \$1,228 and donating it to the City of Madison Forestry to treat whichever trees might benefit most or serve the most important function. Seconded by Shawn. The motion passed unanimously.
- Carole said that the *Hornblower* graphic designer Bridget O'Meara will be retiring after the next issue. She charges \$425-250 to lay out one issue. We need someone with the professional skills to do this for us, in place by mid-July. The post will be announced in the June *Hornblower*. Please get the word out. Sandy said her committee paid a designer \$500 to do work for them and was happy with the results. He lives on east side. Consensus was that while we would prefer someone who lives in the neighborhood, anyone would be considered. Lisa will advertise this position on DMNA news.

Ann moved to adjourn. Sandy seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Catherine Jagoe.