
DMNA Council Meeting Minutes for 01/05/22

6:45 pm, Zoom remote call

IN ATTENDANCE

Diego Saenz, Shawn Schey, Dennis Trest, Catherine Jagoe, Tom Huber, Jason Mascitti, Marco Mascitti, Julie Huiras Mascitti, Sandy Stark, Tag Evers, Brad Boyce, Kathy Engebretsen, Daryl Sherman, Marcia Diamond, Michael Schneider, Carole Kantor, Lisa Grueneberg, Ann Manning, Annie Balch, Josh Napravnik, Tracy Lewis, Ann Clark.

PROCEDURAL

- Call to Order: 6:45 p.m.
- Approval of Agenda: there was a unanimous vote to approve the agenda, with an addition by Carole re the date of the Annual Meeting.
- Minutes: there was a unanimous vote to approve the amended December 1st meeting minutes.

ALDER'S REPORT

- The Common Council adopted the South Madison Plan on January 4 after a two-year effort. Tag was a co-sponsor of the resolution to adopt the SMP but offered two amendments, only one of which passed. It changed the recommended land use of the Thorstadt Concept Area from "low residential" to "low-medium residential." This will allow not only single-family dwellings but also duplexes, triplexes, apartment buildings, row and town houses. Tag considers this a positive outcome since it helps address the housing shortage, although he took some heat from people who thought he wanted huge high rises.
- This fall, as part of the Glenway Golf Course redesign, thousands of new plants and seeds were installed. These need to be undisturbed until they get established. People are out sledding on the hill despite warnings not to do so. Tag appealed for help in reminding people to stay off the entire golf course this winter, so that re-opening does not have to be delayed.
- On January 6, as part of the Lake Wingra Heritage Plan task force, Tag is meeting with three HoChunk representatives and Alder Arvina Martin.
- Tag also continues to collaborate on the Sustainability Plan update, revisions to the lighting ordinance, and various other working groups.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Dennis reviewed DMNA's income and expenses for December. There was not much activity. We got 89 membership dues. We currently have 746 members. We received some donations to the Capital Fund. We received a \$5,000 Water Quality Grant from the city to repay Wingra School, which loaned DMNA money for a rain garden.

The treasurer's report was accepted by unanimous vote.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- Diego is getting over his second bout of Covid, which he caught despite being fully vaccinated.
- District 13 Alliance: Diego would like to have a designated representative from DMNA for the D13 Alliance, other than himself. He appealed for volunteers. It involves one meeting a month and is a good opportunity to get to know other neighborhoods in D13. Contact him if interested, or to suggest someone.
- Diego apologized for not submitting DMNA's statement about the Edgewood High School Commons reconstruction project to the Common Council, due to a misunderstanding about who was tasked with sending the email. This was compounded by the fact that Shawn was not able to access the City Zoom meeting that night, so was not able to present it orally.

Discussion followed on how to handle these types of situations in the future.

Diego: The Liaison Committee should handle this instead of the Executive Committee.

Tom Huber: It was appropriate that the DMNA statement got elevated to the Executive Committee, but the leadership in this instance wasn't clear, creating confusion and misunderstanding about who was responsible for submitting the final document.

Shawn Schey: It would have been better if we had met on Zoom, as we had a very tight deadline.

Ann Clark: The Council/Executive Committee should have the final word on big-picture issues, to insure representation of DMNA.

Tag Evers: Tag would like to be consulted on matters relating to Edgewood. He only found out about the DMNA statement very late.

Daryl Sherman: It is essential that the Executive Committee represent us and that there be other eyes on the message than just the Liaison Committee's.

Tom Huber: The Liaison Committee (composed of Tom, Daryl and Marc) doesn't have a chair, which would have helped in this instance.

PRESENTATION BY MARCO MASCITTI

Guests Marco and Jason Mascitti were introduced. They are financial planners with Thrivent Financial who have opened an office at 2608 Monroe St, in the former Calabash location. Thrivent is a 501c8 company that is 118 years old and is the only not-for-profit 501c8 on the Fortune 500 list. They make billions in profit and give most of it away. He noted that our DMNA budget is tiny, and that Thrivent has the resources to help this community. They could help DMNA with donations for functions or specific needs. They invited residents to drop in and visit them any time.

DMNA ANNUAL MEETING

Carole pointed out that we have to announce DMNA's annual meeting at least three weeks in advance, and candidates for office have to be nominated by then. The meeting date and presentation topic needs to be announced in the *Hornblower* because we don't have emails for the whole neighborhood. Carole suggested a deadline of February 3, the day after our next monthly meeting, for deciding the date, location, speaker and topic. Candidates for office have to be nominated by then also.

Carole recommended Terry Venker, a Native American mounds expert, as a possible speaker for our next meeting. Daryl noted that Bob Birmingham spoke on that topic in the past, at his request. The Social Justice Committee may also have a suggested speaker (Diego will check). Edgewood normally gives us a meeting space on their campus and members bring pies to share. Diego will check with Billy as to whether we could use the Social Budget to pay for beverages; the Chocolate Shoppe might contribute or donate. Jason Mascitti said Thrivent could help pay for food/drink/invitations.

Carole moved the Annual General Meeting be held Sunday April 24, pending availability of space at Edgewood, and that Terry Venker be invited to speak on Native American mounds in the vicinity of Dudgeon Monroe. Tracy seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Lisa Grueneberg, Tracy Lewis and Daryl Sherman volunteered to form the Nominating Committee and were appointed as such by Diego.

The slate of candidates is Diego Saenz (President), Shawn Schey (Vice President), Catherine Jagoe (Secretary), Dennis Trest (Treasurer).

Daryl moved to adjourn. Sandy seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.