
DMNA Council Meeting Minutes for 08/03/22

6:45 pm, Zoom remote call

IN ATTENDANCE

Diego Saenz, Catherine Jagoe, Dennis Trest, Shawn Schey, Kathy Engebretsen, Tom Huber, Tag Evers, Carole Kantor, Michael Schneider, Sandy Stark, Ann Clark, Dennis Trest, Dave Leeper

PROCEDURAL

- Call to Order: 6:48 p.m.
- There was a unanimous vote to approve the agenda with one addition.
- There was a unanimous vote to approve the July 6 meeting minutes, with a couple of name corrections.

ALDER'S REPORT

Shortest ever Common Council meeting yesterday—only 30 minutes! Tag introduced the creation of a farmland preservation taskforce at that meeting. The City of Madison doesn't have a farmland preservation policy. Farming is important to the local economy and local food-sourcing. Despite the housing shortage, we don't want to lose good-quality farmland. Tag would like rezoning of farmland to be put on hold until the taskforce completes its work.

Re the Transit Oriented Development Initiative: Tag supports changing the zoning a half-mile in from the future BRT lines to encourage a modest increase in density of living space. Some residents in Vilas are concerned that the Plan Commission is not planning to exempt the Wingra Park district (including the presidential streets in Vilas). Residents envision historic homes would be pulled down to build duplexes that would be rented out to college kids. Tag doesn't want to see absentee landlords buying up properties and renting them out. He will push for owner-occupancy, meaning that anyone who converts their home to a duplex would have to live in one of the units. That would help maintain neighborhood cohesiveness and control the behavior of renters. Support for TOD on Vilas listserv is split 50/50—half support more density, half are resisting. Monroe St will become a high-frequency network once the redesign goes through, so this will affect DMNA too. It will be discussed at next Plan Commission meeting on August 8, which people can attend remotely.

Shawn asked if it would help if DMNA members wrote members of Plan Commission, cc'ing Tag, in support of owner occupancy. Tag said yes and that Josh could maybe send something on behalf of the Zoning Committee.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Dennis reviewed DMNA's income and expenses for July. The current membership total is 767. He suggested moving the \$16.58 left over from 2012-2014 Dudgeon Park benches project to the general fund. No objections were raised, so he will do that.

The Treasurer's Report was accepted by unanimous vote.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A resident contacted Diego about neighbors having fires in firepits, concerned about air quality. Diego encouraged the person to come to a Council meeting. Dennis said that all DMNA can do is encourage or discourage firepit usage, which is permitted and regulated by City ordinance. Tag encouraged the person to talk to their neighbors.

Diego asked if anyone would be willing to put together an informational handout on DMNA and set up a table to distribute it at the Good Neighbor Gathering on September 11 (including for example a map of our neighborhood, our website, and information on how to join). Carole said that the Fall *Hornblower* will be out by that time and there will be an insert with a list of DMNA committees and information on volunteering in it. Sandy explained that she and Jake had a table at the GNG last year, but hardly anyone stopped by. There is a big map already provided at the event. She suggested it would be just as effective for one of us to go with extra copies of the *Hornblower* to distribute. Carole said she will request 25 extra copies from the printer.

AGENDA ITEMS

2022-2023 Budget Approval

A draft of the upcoming year's budget was discussed and edited at the last meeting. Now we must vote on the corrected version that Dennis submitted based on our discussions. Last year's capital fund of \$3,100 will be allocated to the 2023 DMNA Directory.

Sandy moved to approve the budget for the 2022-2023 fiscal year. Seconded by Ann Clark. The motion passed unanimously. Diego thanked everyone for their input and Dennis for his work on it.

DMNA Committees Discussion (Diego)

The *Hornblower* insert is an opportunity to edit and update our committees list, removing ones that are defunct or currently inactive, such as the Edgewood Special Subcommittee and the Anti-Racism Committee. The insert in the *Hornblower* will now list separate contacts for each committee. Ann Clark and Kathy Engebretsen are working on updating it.

Sandy moved to dissolve the Edgewood Special Subcommittee, and to include the Anti-Racism Committee under the umbrella of Social Justice Committee from now on. Ann Clark added a friendly amendment to also remove Jazz in the Park. Seconded by Shawn Schey. The motion passed unanimously.

Kathy Engebretsen said the list of at-large DMNA Council members on the DMNA website needs revising, as some are no longer attending, or even resident in the neighborhood. Carole said we have a new bylaw policy that requires members at large to be reinstated each year by the Council. At-large members are expected to be active.

Ann Clark said the President needs to contact them each year, and we need to have more turnover, getting new people involved. It shouldn't be the same names every year, only changing if someone dies.

Social Justice Committee Update (Dave Leeper)

- The R-sale neighborhood garage sale will be held August 20th, coordinated by Char Thompson, at Charkt@charter.
- The Regent Sustainability committee has reached out to our Social Justice Committee about trying to create a plastic-free corridor along Regent and Monroe St. i.e., persuade vendors to avoid handing out single-use plastics. Is it time to consider a Sustainability Committee for DMNA? Is anyone interested in coordinating this? Ann Clark volunteered to write an article in the *Hornblower*. Sandy noted that the Monroe St Business Association might want to weigh in on this, as it would be harder for some businesses than others to avoid single-use plastics than others. Dennis suggested, rather than having yet another committee possibly of only one person, having a Sustainability Advisor who keeps tabs on best practices in the field, communicating with Monroe St businesses, and modeling best behavior in our own DMNA events.
- The school snacks donation program now includes a Venmo payment option.
- The SJC is interested in developing socially responsible emergency preparedness in DMNA. If you are interested, watch a short documentary on how Sweden strengthens communities by preparing for emergencies here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LRsZ6TUCCA&t=7s> Is anyone interested in joining this project? Dave will be meeting with several emergency preparedness representatives from Dane County.
- Paul Beckett of the SJC passed away recently and his family would like Paul's email, beckettpa@gmail.com, to be taken off DMNA lists.

Progress of *Hornblower* ad campaign (Carole)

Carole has received an offer of co-editorship for the *Hornblower* from a member of the business faculty at UW. He will write an election article for the upcoming fall issue. The new ad coordinator is working out well, with 78% of projected ad income already guaranteed. They will be using a new printer, AlphaGraphics for the next issue of the *Hornblower*.

Carole moved to adjourn. Sandy seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Catherine Jagoe.