

Greentree Neighborhood Association Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 6, 2023
6:30-7:45 PM via Zoom

Present: Jane Sarafiny (led meeting), Serene Arena, Kathy Batha, David Ewanowski (present briefly at beginning of meeting, out of state), Mayo Ewanowski (present briefly at beginning of meeting, out of state), Danielle Gale, Ruth Paulson

Absent: Jay Russell, Dana Russell, Helen Sheahan, Barbara Torrez

Guest: Justin Rundle

1. **Approval of Meeting Minutes:** December meeting minutes were approved. (Note: No meeting in January.)
2. **Membership Update (Mayo Ewanowski):** No update, information presented at December meeting is current.
3. **Treasurer Report (David Ewanowski):** No update, information presented at December meeting is current.
4. **Tell Us! Library Survey program:** Rynn Kerkhove, program planner for Madison Public Library, presented information on the “Tell Us” Library Survey, which she described a community engagement and feedback program that will be used as part of a Westside libraries strategic plan. A similar project occurred with the East Side libraries (published in 2016), which is being used as a “blueprint” for the West Side. The East Side engagement program involved over 300 participants and resulted in a “much needed” new library on the far east side (Imagination Center, Reindahl/Truax area). She noted the “Tell Us” questions are not necessarily library specific and are designed to get at bigger picture issues facing people and communities, including services and facilities, what needs improvement, gaps, what communities/people are represented, how library fits as the West Side evolves, and other issues. Would like to hear from people on West Side that use libraries to directly inform decisions.

“Tell Us” packets are available at the Elver Park community Center has packet and the “Tell Us” website. Group meetings have been scheduled at the five West Side libraries (Meadowridge, South Madison, Ashman, Sequoya, Monroe), and Ms. Kerkhove is available to facilitate small group conversations at other locations. She also noted that the tool is designed to do individually. She hopes that conversations will be wrapped up over the next few months, that a draft plan will be ready by September for public round of feedback, with a final plan to the Library Board by the end of year (possibly extending to 2024).

Website: <https://www.madisonpubliclibrary.org/about/tell-us>

5. **Holiday Lighting Contest review (Ruth Paulson):** Ms. Paulson gave a brief update. This was the first year for the new nomination and voting process. She and three volunteer judges met by Zoom prior to the drive through the neighborhood. Six finalist displays were chosen by the judges. Voting took place on the website, and 92 responses were received. She noted that she was contacted by a number of people that liked the format and felt it involved more neighbor input. Has received feedback about the process from two of the three judges. Only issue was the timing of nominations, getting information out to the community/website, and voting. Will discuss further at a later meeting.

6. **Alder Update (Matt Phair):** Mr. Phair introduced himself to the new members of the Board. He has lived in Greentree since 2017 and previously in Meadowood. Had previously been the District 20 Alder but did not run for reelection in 2019. He was appointed in June 2022 to finish the term of Christian Albouras, who resigned when he moved out of the district. His current term ends in April 2023 and he is running for another term.

Mr. Phair currently serves on Community Development Block Grant and Board of Public Health (BOPH), primarily focusing on housing and homeless issues. Discussed WHEAD funding and homelessness issues, 200-400 units/year funded. Feels progress has been made over past year, including a tentative permanent Men's shelter on Zeier Rd. BOPH: violence prevention unit within BOPH. Police are part of picture but not only part. Prevention. 4 staff. Focus on root causes.

Mr. Phair discussed Council action on housing/zoning changes around the proposed Bus Rapid Transit district (example: allow for a "2-stack" duplex in traditional single-family neighborhood). Higher density close to transit. Expecting an increase in city population of 100,000+ in the next 50 years. Incentivize housing. There will also be a change of "family" definition in zoning. Single family traditionally allowed only two unrelated, proposed is a change to five unrelated. Feels this would provide more options to live affordability in city. Felt the need to be careful about certain areas, especially around campus. Concern about landlords buying more single-family homes, since students want to be close to downtown. Feels supply brings costs "down" or closer to inflation. Indicated driving change is Zoning feels hands are tied with families and affordability. Feels approval will be delayed, with more research needed. Noted Minneapolis allows any kind of development, basically no zoning. When asked if this would mean a three-bedroom residence could have five non-related adults, he indicated there would still be code restrictions.

Mr. Phair was asked if there is any update on the Hammersley Road project for 2023. He said he was not aware of project.

Mr. Phair was asked about the possibility of speed bumps on Brookwood between Hammersley and Piping Rock because of speeding issues.

Mr. Phair was asked about status of the proposed development of the former Michael's and La Nopalera properties. He said it is still in the process of acquiring funding.

7. **By-Laws Presentation (Jane Sarafiny):** Ms. Sarafiny summarized the proposed modifications to the GTNA By-Laws, which include: moving the membership year start from October 1 to July 1 (to lessen confusion and possible "double payments"); changing the number of board officers to up to 11; ending defined representation areas but will also make an effort to prevent multiple reps from same area; changing officer/board member terms to 2-year appointments (but allowing members to stay longer); changing quorum to 50%; and some wording changes/corrections. Will present at March meeting.
8. **Gloria Reyes Mayoral Candidate presentation at March meeting:** The group discussed Ms. Reyes's request to attend the March GTNA meeting and whether it would require "equal time" to any other candidates. Members present decided that she could attend since the Board does not endorse any candidate, and other candidates would be welcome to make a similar request.
9. **Annual Meeting:** April 25, Meadowridge Library Community Room. Planned topics include Police presentation by Scott Reitmeier (Detective Sergeant of the Madison Police Burglary Crime Unit) and By-Law updates. Other possible topics were discussed, including Alder presentation; asking for neighborhood input on what GTNA Board can do for community, what does the neighborhood expect from us; events; different venues of info, what are you not

getting that you think would be useful, how to get neighbors more engaged. Meeting announcement will be in the February Stump.

10. **Garage Sale (Ruth Paulson):** Ms. Paulson said the annual garage sale is planned for Friday and Saturday, May 5 and 6, which is coordinating dates with Meadowood. Each neighborhood will be handling their own website and publicity. Ms. Sheahan is coordinator, Ms. Paulson is website and publicity. The sign-up timeline may need to be changed to have adequate time to develop an interactive map by May 2. Ms. Paulson will start putting dates on the GTNA Facebook page.

11. **New Items:** No new non-agenda discussion items.

The meeting ended at 7:45 PM.

The next GTNA Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 6, 2023 starting 6:30 PM and will be held via Zoom.

Minutes compiled and submitted by Danielle Gale (in Jay Russell's absence)