

GTNA Board Meeting Minutes

November 11, 2024

6:30pm – 8:15pm via Zoom

Attendees: Jay Russell, Dana Russell, Helen Sheahan, Gary Kobs, Ruth Paulson, Terrah Clark, Kathy Batha, Mayo Ewanowski, David Ewanowski, Serene Arena, Alex Kocher, Trevor Olson

Regrets: Kathe Powers, Jane Sarafiny

Guests: Tyler Blackburn - new resident.

Meeting Minutes: The October 2024 meeting minutes were approved.

Halloween Bonfire Report: Gary Kobs reported that, due to high winds, it was decided to not light the bonfire. Hot Chocolate was still served. There were approximately 60 people in attendance. Thank you to Mr. Kobs for his organizational efforts, and to Mr. & Mrs. Batha for providing firewood. It was suggested that in the future we start the bonfire an hour earlier, around 6:00 pm. The Bonfire Permit was \$60. The Park use permit was \$50.

Holiday Lights Update: Ms. Clark and Mr. Olson. Ms. Clark reported that she sent an email request for judges and got no response. It was recommended that she call these individuals instead of email. Alex Kocher offered himself and his wife as judges. Ms. Clark explained the timeline needed for each step. We should include a mention in social media, main GTNA website, and the Holiday Lights website. The schedule was already published in the Stump. A Google Docs form will be used for voting. **A separate website will not be needed. We will use gtna.org.**

Ash Tree Fund Discussion: Ms. Sheahan provided a document explaining her conversation with the City Forrester. The City will provide Ash Tree treatments going forward. There is \$420.48 in the fund.

1. The Board discussed options for using the money that is in the Ash Treatment fund.
 - a. Should we release the money to the General Parks Tree Fund?
2. Ms. Sheahan will have an additional discussion with the City to see what options there are for using the money and will report back to the Board.
 - a. We can ask the members for suggestions as to what to do with the funds instead of giving the funds to the City.
3. Mr. Russell will check with the City to see if residents can select the type of tree they will get to replace a City tree – e.g. like in the terrace in front of a home.

GTNA 2025 and Beyond Plan:

1. **Google Drive Repository** – Holiday Lights is an example of a good organization structure on the Repository.
 - a. The Base folder has general information
 - b. Sub-folders beneath are for each annual event.
 - c. Our Google drive has a 15 GB capacity. We are currently at about 4.5GB.
 - d. Ms. Arena stated that she can open permission to Board Members to edit the site.

2. Providing Additional Value for Younger GTNA Members, Especially Those with Families.
 - a. Babysitting sharing?
 - b. Park Play dates?
 - i. We will try this informally next year. The Board thought that providing juice boxes/bubbly water and snacks is unnecessary.
3. Food Truck Gatherings? There is a homeowner who has a food truck. Perhaps we should talk to him to start. Ms. Ewanowski related a DeForest food truck event occurring weekly in a neighborhood. Mr. Kocher will do some further research.
4. Stump/Email Announcements to Current Members.
5. President's Letter outlining changes to membership fees
6. Create a Volunteer List. Volunteer Coordinator – Mr. Kocher
 - a. Mr. Kocher will need to work with Ms. Ewanowski to review the volunteer list from the member database. He would have a master list of volunteers for the various events throughout the year.
 - b. Call for specific volunteers
 - c. We need to get help for Katie Place to handle 4th of July Food coordination.
7. Gallop T-shirt Design. Ms. Powers was unable to attend tonight's meeting but will report on this topic next month.
 - a. Mr. Russell said that Joel Weitz of Vitense would again be a sponsor for the T-Shirts
8. How to Recruit Future Board Members.

Pie and Fire Pit Event. Ms. Clark reported that they anticipate 30± guests

Membership Update. Ms. Ewanowski reported that we have two 2 new members this month. We now have 247 households. We are now out of printed directories. The directories cost about \$1 to print. Postage costs more to mail. Thank you to Ms. Sheahan and Ms. Batha for their work in identifying and contacting new residents. There was a discussion of whether we should print additional updated directories. It was decided that we will not print additional directories but will provide new members with an electronic version of the directory. Mr. Olson will work with Ms. Ewanowski on paginating the Directory. **Anybody who signs up for GTNA Membership in 2025 will have membership through June 30, 2027.**

Treasurer Report. Mr. Ewanowski reported that our bank balance as of November 11 is \$2,596.27. We had an income of \$30 from new memberships. We had expenses of \$578.63 in October for the Go Daddy renewal (\$155.88) and fall 2024 Stump printing (\$422.75).

Other Items:

1. There will be a Southwest Area Planning Meeting on November 19, 2024, 6:30-8:30pm at Akira Toki Middle School, 5606 Russett Road.
2. Email Scam alert issued by the City of Madison. Board members were sent emails using Mr. Russell's name. Ms. Sheahan reported that her church group was also subject to this scam.

Next meeting - Monday, December 2, 2024 at 6:30 pm via Zoom.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Dana Russell