

GTNA Board Meeting Minutes

October 7, 2024

6:30pm – 8:03pm via Zoom

Attendees: Jay Russell, Dana Russell, Helen Sheahan, Gary Kobs, Ruth Paulson, Trevor Olson, Terrah Clark, Kathy Batha, Kathe Powers

Regrets: Mayo Ewanowski, David Ewanowski, Jane Sarafiny, Serene Arena, Alex Kocher,

Guests: Rick Thomas – Keeping Neighbors Connected, Jane Glaze – Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ, Eric Alvin from Joining Forces for Families, Kevin Suh

Meeting Minutes: The September 2024 meeting minutes were approved.

Halloween Bonfire Update: Mr. Kobs reported that logistics are in place – firewood, hot chocolate, water source, setup crew. The Park Permit is still pending. Need to get the Burn Permit which cannot be applied for until we receive the Park Permit. Mr. Kobs will continue to communicate with the City.

We are getting the word out about the location shift to Sunridge Park on social media. Ms. Batha will post signs stating the Bonfire location. Ms. Sheahan will post signs in Norman Clayton Park stating the bonfire has been moved to Sunridge Park for 2024.

Holiday Lights Update: Mr. Olson stated that an email needs to go to potential judges by mid-October. There is 3-year eligibility ban for former winners. Mr. Olson will craft proposed language for the rules and guidance. Ms. Paulson advised that Ms. Ewanowski has database information as to who may be interested in being a judge. 3 to 4 judges are a good number for the judging committee. Mr. Olson and Ms. Clark will work with Ms. Ewanowski for the database information.

Leftover Gallop T-shirts: Ms. Powers suggested that the leftover Gallop shirts (3 large shirts) would make good prizes for the Holiday Lights winners.

Guest Rick Thomas – Keeping Neighbors Connected: Rick Thomas, Jane Glaze from Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ, and Eric Alvin from Joining Forces for Families requested an introduction to GTNA. Their goal is to keep neighbors connected with available services locally. They are focused on the southwest Madison area (Meadowood, Orchard Ridge, Greentree neighborhoods). Mr. Thomas will send a slide presentation to Mr. Russell who will make it available to the Board.

Eric Alvin – Joining Forces for Families is a part of Dane County Human Services. They place social workers into the community. Their goal is to try to connect people in need with their resources. They get lots of requests for affordable housing, the most desperate need. Mr. Elvy serves the southwest Madison area. Several churches have also joined forces to try to provide support. People are referred to Mr. Elvy to help with eviction prevention. In 2023 they helped 41 families, in 2024 10 families (20 adults, 22 children). They also provide pregnancy health assistance, counseling, mental health services, employment services, early childhood

support, domestic violence services. There are other resources available. These organizations try to connect people with specific needs to the organizations that may be able to help them.

Rick Thomas – Keeping Neighbors Connected. Affordable housing is desperately needed. The median annual income for renters is \$46,151. Average monthly rent in Madison is \$1,677: studio apartment-\$1,446; 1 Bedroom-\$1,632; 2 Bedroom-\$1,713; 3 or more Bedroom-\$2498+. This is where inflation is hitting the hardest. Madison's population continues to grow, putting a crunch on housing.

Jane Glaze - retired, a volunteer for Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ. St. Maria Goretti was involved but have stepped away from the organization due to changes within the church. Their goal is to develop more partnerships in the area. Fundraising is always needed.

Membership Incentives: As the new membership fee will be \$25 for a 2-year membership to GTNA, a discussion was held to decide if there will be a Membership incentive discount (\$20) if fees are paid prior to May 1, 2025. (the discount window will be January 1 to May 1). The new member application distributed through the Stump in May would not include the May 1 incentive deadline. Ms. Paulson proposed a vote. The nine members present voted yes.

Stump Discount: Proposal to reduce Membership fee to \$20 for members who elect to receive their Stump electronically, saving some printing costs. A final decision has been tabled until after the membership renewal period in July 2025. We will offer the option to go paperless for the Stump on the 2025 membership form, but not offer a discount at this time. The cost to print and mail the Stump so far for 2024 was \$1556 with one issue left to be printed.

Stump Publishing: Per Ms. Batha, the next Stump deadline is November 14.

Garage Sale: Discuss and decide if there will be a charge for non-member households that participate in the annual Garage Sale. They would be charged a \$25 fee to be included in the list of participants. That cost will become their membership to the GTNA. Listing on the Garage Sale website is considered a member benefit. Mr. Russell proposed a vote on this decision. All 9 board members present voted yes.

Anana Dash Fun Run Fund Raiser Friday Oct. 11: Mr. Russell thanked Ms. Clark, Ms. Arena, and Ms. Paulson for the social media advertising support.

Food Truck: Ms. Paulson asked about Food Truck gatherings. She specifically asked our guest, Mr. Thomas, about a Food Truck permit. Mr. Thomas works on food truck permits for their church. Mr. Thomas stated that we need permission from the city to have a food truck at a park site. Per Mr. Thomas, this procedure has changed a lot in the last few years. Also, we can ask Katie Place about the permit process for 4th of July. How long is the permit good for? Year? Could we use this existing permit for food trucks in the parks?

Anana School still needs volunteers for the walking bus. Mr. Kobs will provide specific information on what is needed.

Membership Update: Ms. Ewanowski was not at the meeting. She reported to Mr. Russell that there were no new members added in September. Our membership total is now **245** members. This figure is a substantial increase from 2023.

Treasurer Report: Mr. Ewanowski was not at the meeting but provided information to Mr. Russell prior to the meeting. Our bank balance as of September 30 is \$3,194.90. We had income of \$930 from MG&E for advertising. Expenses of \$0 for September.

Other items

- It was decided to move the November meeting to Monday November 11 rather than hold the meeting the night before the election.
- Terrah and Frederick Clark plan to host a November Pie and Fire Pit event on their driveway. Although this is not an official GTNA event, Ms. Clark will send an email to the GTNA members as an introduction to meet her as the “face behind the emails.”

Next meeting - Monday, November 11, 2024 at 6:30 pm via Zoom. (***Meeting postponed one week due to November 5 Presidential Election.***)

Minutes respectfully submitted by Dana Russell