Sunset Village Neighborhood Association

Madison, WI 53705

Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: May 22, 2024

Meeting Location: Sequoya Madison Library

Some of the Attendees: James Ream, Liz Vowles, Ulrike Dieterle, Ken Raffa, Anna Badey Raffa, Rich Kedsior, John Kedsior, Linda Fahy, Tim Gruber, Hao Yuan, Claudia Lozano, Kris Bohling, Eric Guderyon, Hanna Andersson

Meeting Opening: The meeting was brought to order at 6:45p.m.

We all introduced ourselves.

Old Business:

Treasurer and Membership Report: Rich Kedzior

Our current balance is $8,599.86.

Three households have paid memberships since our February meeting.

SVCA Newsletter: Liz Vowles

She feels the newsletter captures SVCA and is pleased with the format.

Roads and Sidewalk Construction Updates: Liz Vowles

Construction has begun on Owen Street. A multistory building is being proposed between Blackhawk St and Meadow St. Concerns are that the area will be congested with a loss of privacy for current residents. Additionally, existing businesses that have been a mainstay will need to vacate this area. It seems the quality of life in Madison is being trivialized to achieve urban growth. Adjacent property values suffer as well. Ulrike and Ken suggested that we look at the neighborhood plan in detail and the changes that have been made to accommodate multi - level buildings James feels they should upgrade the architectural appeal of these buildings as well.

Friends of Hoyt Park: Anna Badey Raffa

Andy is our conservation ranger for three seasons joined by Taylor for the summer. Their salary comes exclusively from donations to Friends of Hoyt Park. Our Earth Day celebration was a huge success including a nature walk with The Wild Ones Nature Group. We also had a workday to remove invasive species and spruce up the park.

The workdays will be the third Saturday of each month through November. Meet in the main parking lot near the shelter at 10:00 a.m.

Our conservation rangers are offering a 9:00 a.m. hike in the park every Thursday morning and all are welcome. The 2nd Thursday is also for dogs. Meet in the main parking lot for this event.

Saturday, June 1 will be “Nature Everywhere Day” a city-wide event sponsored by the Children and Nature Network partnering with Madison Parks. Hoyt Park will be hosting an orienteering event from 10:00 a.m. until noon. We can accommodate up to fifty people. Orienteering is a map and compass navigation game. Participants can be families, teams or individuals who will set out to find a series of checkpoints that are marked on the map. Multiple courses will be offered. Arrive any time between 10:00 a.m. and noon. A 15-minute instructional clinic will be given at 10:15 and another at 11:00 a.am. For more information look on Nature Everywhere website.

Our annual meeting will be July 23 at 6:00 p.m. The place is yet TBD. Our guest speaker is Rich Henderson who worked for the DNR and is a prairie enthusiast with an emphasis on oak savannah restoration.

Ken made a motion that SVCA donate $500.00 to Hoyt Park and Ulrike seconded this. The motion carried unanimously.

New Business:

Sidewalks Discussion – Harvey and Eugenia Streets: Rich Kedzior

Rich presented a PowerPoint for SVCA entitled Harvey Street and Blackhawk Avenue Sidewalks. He poses the question: Why improve the sidewalk network? He addresses it with Safety, Equity and Fairness. Safety for everyone, especially the most vulnerable: schoolchildren, the frail, and those with disabilities, young bicyclists, people walking for work, school, and exercise. Equity to enable all residents, regardless of age, ability, or housing type. Fairness in that residents with sidewalks contribute to the sidewalk network by paying assessments and keeping sidewalks free of snow and ice.

Lively conversation for pro and con sidewalks ensued but one main factor was safety for children waiting for their school bus.

Rich also gave us a draft resolution to request construction of sidewalks on Harvey Street and North Blackhawk Avenue

Ulrike’s welcoming of our new co-president

Ulrike gave James a binder with pertinent information for being the co-president of SVCA. This includes agendas, suggestions for running meetings and the many events that we have each year, along with a contact list of people who could possibly assist him with these events.

Request from the president of Westmorland Neighborhood Association to sponsor their 4th of July celebration:

Ken proposed that we financially support them. Ken made a motion that we support Westmorland with $500.00 and James seconded this. The motion carried unanimously. Ken added that he would like to see the SVCA contribution recognized at the event, possibly with a sign acknowledging that we helped sponsor them.

Ice Cream Social Commitments:

This will be on Saturday, August 3. We will have ice cream, pizza, cake, beverages, the balloon man and his daughter, and the fire truck. Pizza will need to be negotiated by Jon and James. Ulrike will pick up snacks. A lot is already in place and will be finalized in the coming months.

Discussion: Proposed City Plan to disregard neighborhood plans

Ulrike and Liz said that the planners felt they often encountered skepticism when they presented their proposals. Ulrike and Ken pointed out that a lot of time, energy, and public comment were invested in the Hoyt Park Area Joint Neighborhood Plan but the new approach encompassing the entire west side seems to neutralize such input and neighborhood specificity. Ken and Ulrike suggested that a designee from each Westside neighborhood association be identified to work together. The function of this group would be to rapidly communicate new projects and trends that were in the works, and to help coordinate responses to elected representatives where so desired.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45

Our next meeting will be in August with a place and date TBD

Minutes respectfully submitted by,

Anna Badey Raffa

SVCA Secretary