Sunset Village Community Association

Madison, WI 53705

Meeting Minutes

Date: May 21, 2025

Location: Sequoya Library

Our meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Attendees: James Ream, Liz Vowles, Linda Fahy, Rich Kedzior, Claudia Lozano, John Kedzior, Ken Raffa, Anne Badey Raffa, Alder Regina Vidaver, County Board Supervisor Richelle Andrea, Mike Sobek Ozburn, Eric Guderyar, Aimee Glassel, Dan Knuth, Adam Book, Katie Book, Sue Reynard, and Leanne Bergstrom. Our Zoom participants were Elizabeth Kebbekus, Kris Bohling, Thy Tran, Hannu Andersson and Ingrid Andersson.

**Welcome and Opening Comments:** James Ream **James welcomed all of us to this meeting.**

**Updates from Alder and County Board Supervisor**

Regina Vidaver: Ridge Avenue will be reconstructed for curb and gutter and will need to have sidewalks on at least one side upon completion. The Blackhawk Crossing project will start shortly. The sewer project at Highland Ave. and University Ave. will begin soon.

Budget meetings start next week.

Richelle Andrea District 11: The county is going into a budget deficit. There are challenges to the AmeriCorps Program and 80% were cancelled. Community centers across the counties are affected by this. There are lists circulating about immigration status and our status as a sanctuary city. There is an updated bike map. There is a blog and feel free to reach out to Richelle and she will add you to this blog list. Sunset Village will officially be added to her blog.

**Ice Cream Social**: Sue Reynard

The plan is to do everything we did last year. Aimee suggested we ask Luigis, Glass Nickel, Novanta, and other pizza places for special offers for this event. Sue will also do the survey on ice cream flavors. One suggestion was to have pizza for only one hour to offset the cost. The Balloon Man will be back by popular demand.

**Easter Egg Hunt**: Erin Deeley

We agreed to pay Erin $250.00 this year and in the future for this event. Rich suggested that he ask Erin for the receipts instead and then write her a check for that amount.

**Reports**

Treasurer’s Report: Rich Kedzior. Available funds total $7,568.46.

Membership Report: Rich Kedzior. We have one household who paid membership since our last meeting in February.

Road & Sidewalk Construction Updates: Liz Vowles. North Owen near Lucia Crest Park will have speed bumps and the intersection of Hammersley and Glenway will have a flashing light.

Friends of Hoyt Park: Anne Badey Raffa.

There will be a free guided walk through the park the third Thursday of every month through September. The topics will vary and the one in June will be the park history. Meet in the main parking lot by the kiosk at 6:30 p.m.

On May 31st there will be an acoustic survey of the Hoyt Park bats. Meet at 8:15 in the main parking lot by the kiosk.

The workdays continue through November and are the third Saturday morning of each month at 10:00 am. Meet in the parking lot of the main shelter.

Please check their website and listserv for updates on future events

Westmorland Celebration on July 3 and 4. Sunset Village will be a co-sponsor and agreed to give a $500.00 donation for this event.

**New Business**

Resolution to request completion of sidewalks on Harvey St. and Blackhawk Ave. Rich Kedzior proposed the following resolution:

Whereas, the off-street pedestrian network in north Sunset Village is incomplete, with notable sidewalk gaps, presenting particular safety risks and access impediments for those who are vulnerable or have limited mobility, especially school-age children; and

Whereas, fast-moving vehicular through-traffic on Harvey Street presents hazards to residents; and

Whereas, since the 1950s, the south side of Harvey Street has had a sidewalk island in front of four apartment buildings that connects to no other streets; and

Whereas, 19 Sunset Village residents requested construction of continuous sidewalks on both sides of Harvey Street in a letter to Mayor Rhodes-Conway on November 1, 2019; and

Whereas, the Sunset Village Community Association (SVCA) resolved to support construction of continuous sidewalk on Harvey Street on February 16, 2023; and

Whereas, the 2019 North Blackhawk Avenue and 2024 Harvey Street projects left sidewalk gaps and revealed that additional street trees are needed along Harvey Street to increase canopy coverage; and

Whereas, accessing Lucia Crest Park and the two school bus stops at Eugenia Avenue and Owen Drive and

Blackhawk Avenue and Owen Drive from the Harvey Street apartment buildings necessitates walking in the street for more than 400 feet; and

Whereas, 57 neighborhood residents signed a petition calling for the construction of sidewalks on the south side Harvey Street and east side of North Blackhawk Avenue and submitted the petition to City Council in November 2023; and

Whereas, SVCA supports the placement of sidewalk in the south parking lane of Harvey Street, from North Blackhawk Avenue to 3325 Harvey Street, in order to calm traffic and provide safe off-street pedestrian accommodations; and

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Sunset Village Community Association calls on the City of Madison to include the study of sidewalks on Harvey Street and North Blackhawk Avenue in its consideration of neighborhood safety projects, install temporary barriers on the south side of Harvey Street to separate pedestrian and vehicular traffic where needed, and complete construction of sidewalks in the parking lane of the south side of Harvey Street between North Blackhawk Avenue and 3325 Harvey Street and on the east side of North Blackhawk Avenue from University Avenue to Harvey Street no later than December 31, 2026.

Sue Reynard moved that we adopt the resolution. Claudia Lozano seconded it. Discussion followed, including both affirming and dissenting opinions. During discussion Alder Regina Vidaver suggested the city engineers would find it more efficient to consider this proposal in conjunction with the proposed Ridge St. project.

Ken Raffa proposed the following amendment to the proposal: “Conduct the proposed study of Harvey Street and North Blackhawk Avenue sidewalks in conjunction with the ongoing study for the Ridge Street project that is currently scheduled for construction in 2029.”

Anne Badey Raffa seconded the amendment. Discussion followed. The motion to amend carried.

After further discussion there was a call for the vote. The amended proposal passed by 9-7.

James Ream brought up the issue of new speed limits and where these signs are placed. Regina replied the traffic engineering segment places these signs. She does not know how they decide where to place them.

**Discussion Regarding Completing Sidewalk Gaps Throughout Sunset Village**: Aimee Glassel

For safety purposes we should consider the top of Hill Street for sidewalks. Hill Street is not part of Sunset Village. She is an advocate for residents of the neighborhood. It would be fair to conduct a survey about sidewalk construction there.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by,

Anne Badey Raffa

Secretary, SVCA