

MINUTES

University Hill Farms Neighborhood Association

May 12, 2018 at **9:00** a.m.

Covenant Presbyterian Church, Rm C206 on Main Level

Attending: Peter Hughes, Ron Harris, Kathy Thompson, Joe Keyes, Brendon Dybdahl, Marilyn Howell, Julia Stein-Barnes, Nick Schweitzer, Anita Sprenger, Cathy Auger, Arvina Martin

Guests: Wendy Crabb and Jody Thill from Van Hise school PTO

Unable to attend: Mike Lawton, Jacki Lawton, Dave Lewandowski

Alder Report

(Arvina Martin)

- a. Parking concerns (mostly due to DOT) are main concerns that Hill Farms residents bring to Arvina recently.
 - i. She has received many requests for 2 hour parking restrictions with residential permits. As the requests come in, Arvina sends them to City officials. The process is driven by residents, on a block-by-block basis.
 - ii. Parking congestion seems to be driven by the new State Office Building, particularly by state employees who do not purchase permits to park in the new ramp. Is the garage at the new State Office Building being used at high rate of occupancy? If not, can Department of Administration alter policies to encourage more employees to purchase permits? Arvina recommends that individuals who experience parking issues should contact DOA officials directly.
 - iii. Arvina recommends that we hold a summer meeting to discuss neighborhood parking issues.
- b. Traffic issues in neighborhoods adjacent to Hill Farms.
 - i. Whitney Way at Mineral Point: issues related to right hand turns from Whitney to Mineral Point. The recent fatal crash appears not to have been caused by street design. Traffic Engineering will monitor changes in traffic patterns, esp. regarding development in University Research Park.
 - ii. Fatal automobile-pedestrian crash at Midvale Boulevard and the bike path. Traffic Engineering is reviewing street design in that area. Automobiles tend to speed through that stretch of Midvale Boulevard from the Beltline to Odana Road. Arvina proposes to hold two meetings for residents who live in neighborhoods near Midvale Boulevard. The first meeting would be to discover residents' concerns about traffic. The second meeting would be to discuss specific of street design.
- c. Polling places. Arvina is unhappy with Department of Administration's behavior regarding the polling place located in the State Office Building. Residents in the Sheboygan Avenue area strongly prefer to vote closer to their homes, rather than at Covenant church. DOA's behavior caused problems for City in spring elections. Recently, DOA told the City that they could no longer host a polling place. City is studying new sites for polling places.

- d. Impact of running for State Secretary of State office. Should Arvina win election to state office, she would take office in January. She would serve out the remainder of her term as Alder, which runs through April.
2. **Election of Vice President.** The board elected Cathy Auger to serve as Vice President.
3. **Approval of the Minutes for Feb 3, 2018.** The board approved the minutes of February 3.
4. **President's Report** by Peter Hughes. Discussion on community garden expansion at Rennebohm. Anita Sprenger attended a so-called listening session regarding the expansion of the community garden in Rennebohm. City officials only looked at spaces in city parks, and they had ruled out all sites except for Rennebohm park. City officials will move the path, at approximate cost of \$60,000.
5. **Schools** by Julia Stein-Barnes. Wendy Crabb and Jody Thill reported on the Van Hise Elementary PTO on playground plans and funding plans. The playground is in woefully poor condition. The PTO will approach the School Board on May 21 with a playground renovation plan with several new play structures. The new play structures will be accessible to users of different ages (graded for children ages 5-12, which includes middle school children) and with a range of abilities. The main addition would be a "multiple entry point" play structure, at cost of \$50,000. They propose that UHFA might provide for a new climber, at cost of approximately \$2,000. Other improvements will come in future years, on a pay-as-you go basis. Board passed the following resolution: "The University Hill Farms Association shall provide \$2,250, contribution to fund a new climbing structure to be installed at Van Hise/Hamilton school."
6. **Treasurer's Report.** Dave provided Peter with financial and budget information, which he shared with us. Board approved spending \$500 to support the Capitol City Band. Joe will contact Dave about how to make the payment.
7. **Technology Update** (Brendon Dybdahl)
 - a. Garage sale invitation will go to members later today. Brendan will update the new board page on our website.
 - b. Restructuring HF database. We need to consider purchasing a new database to maintain our membership records. A new webhost might provide new alternatives.
 - c. Recent issues concerning succession. Ryan Deverman, a member, is writing a new website for us. Ryan wants to explore moving our website to a new hosting service with more tools and features, perhaps linking to our membership directory. He is a candidate to take responsibility for the Technology director.

Ron Harris left the meeting at this point. Marilyn Howell took minutes for the remainder.

8. **Safety.** Joe Keyes indicated there was little to report last week. He has discussed with Alder Arvina Martin that the additional traffic generated by the ongoing building at Hill Farms and the additional buildings proposed to be built, may cause additional safety concerns in the neighborhood.
9. **Membership & Directory.** Marilyn Howell talked about the Facebook Group requests they are getting and that they require a paid membership. Often those asking for approval do not answer the required questions and they are therefore denied approval. Brendon Dybdahl and Marilyn said it is time-consuming and currently not easy to remove those that haven't paid their membership dues or have moved from the neighborhood. Before the September membership drive, Marilyn will post on the FB

Group page that we will be cleaning up the members list and removing those that have not paid.

10. **ARC and Planning Committee updates.** Joe Keyes reported there were 3 projects presented for review and approval. At their next meeting in June, they will have a discussion on the addition of sheds on HF properties. Currently the \$50 fee is used to file projects with the Register of Deeds. There will soon be two vacant positions on ARC, held by Greg Erickson and Eileen Kelly. These positions will be announced in the next Newsletter.
11. **Parks.** Anita Sprenger is getting quite a few notices from the City about meetings. She asked if there was any interest from the Board members of installing park benches along the path in Rennebohm Park. The Board members expressed an interest and encouraged Anita to speak with Jule Stroick in the City Parks about the idea.
12. **Newsletter.** Kathy Thompson reminded the Board that articles for the next Newsletter are due May 15. Nick will write and include an article about the need for volunteers to step forward and replace him and Joe for the 4th of July.
13. **Report Spring Social.** Peter Hughes reported for Jacki Lawton that there were 40-50 people who attended the Spring Social. He will be doing a photo display to show the difference the leaf project can make and displaying it at a neighborhood event.
14. **Planning for July 4th** (Nick Schweitzer, Joe Keyes)
 - a. Joe Keyes and Nick Schweitzer announced that this would be their last year coordinating the 4th of July Picnic and Parade. Their past requests for replacements haven't been acknowledged. It was suggested that a posting go on the Facebook page and also in an email blast alerting the neighborhood that Joe and Nick are stepping down after this year and that a couple of people are needed to step up and take over otherwise the 4th of July picnic and parade will end.
 - b. Nick has found a clown and the cost will be \$120. Joe is lining up his crew of folks to do food preparation but more volunteers are needed.
 - c. Peter Hughes will contact Great Dane once again to donate the beer. Last year they donated 2 barrels and we bought 2 additional. Peter will ask them to donate 3 this year.
15. **Neighborhood Oral Histories - Library and State Historical Society.** - Peter Hughes reported that Jacki is working with the State Historical Society on an oral history program. Peter indicated one of his neighbors is interested in telling their story. A suggestion was made that an article to advertise the program be put in the newsletter.
16. **Capitol City Band 50th year.** Joe Keyes indicated that there will be a food cart at the park during the Thursday evening concerts this year. There is also one at the Hill Farm Pool on Thursdays. Joe will write an email blast announcing the food cart and that it is Jim Lattimer's 50th year with the Band. The Board will prepare a letter recognizing Jim's contribution to our neighborhood and have Peter Hughes read it at one of the concerts.

A motion by Kathy Thompson and seconded by Anita Sprenger to adjourn at 11:20 a.m. Motion passed.