

Final

Bassett Neighborhood District Monthly Meeting

7:00 p.m., 9 November 2009

Capitol Lakes Retirement Small Dining Room, 333 W. Main St.

Meeting called to order at 7:04 p.m

Attending: Brandon Cook, Rosemary Lee, Paula Oeler (minutes), Officer Pedro Ortega-Mendoza, Pete Ostlind (chair), and Alder Mike Verveer.

1) Introductions.

2) Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes. October minutes accepted as written.

3) Community Police Officer. Pedro Ortega-Mendoza (Portega-Mendoza@cityofMadison.com and 577.5734 cell). Officer Pedro Ortega-Mendoza gave a brief reporting of recent incidents in the central police district focusing on those that happened in the neighborhood. In general, unlocked student housing continues to be an issue; students should not leave apartments unlocked even (especially) if another tenant is in a back room. Incidents also continue to occur at bar time. The department has increased its presence in the neighborhood using plain-clothes officers. He encouraged people to call and report suspicious activity because it helps officers do their job. Officer Ortega-Mendoza's perception is that incidents in the central district are up; but Captain Mary Schauf will have more hard data at the end of the year.

4) 115 & 117 S Bassett – Brandon Cook. Pete Ostlind reported that this Planned Unit Development (PUD) project – renovations at 115 and 117 S. Bassett plus the construction of a rear building – has received approval at the UDC (Urban Design Commission). Please see last month's minutes for more details. Changes from the last UDC meeting include moving some trees and adding some more bicycle and motor scooter parking. The property will have space for at least 6 scooters and 26 bicycles; bicycle storage may increase depending on the final interior mounting system. This project now heads to the Plan Commission (Monday, December 14th – same night as the next Bassett meeting). If approved by the Plan Commission, then the proposal would go to the Common Council at their first scheduled meeting in January 2010. The neighborhood steering committee did meet prior to the UDC meeting and generated a letter stating its position; this position has not changed. Rosemary thought that a new letter should be written to the Plan Commission. Pete will speak with the steering committee; they will review the final revisions and Pete will update the letter for the Plan Commission.

5) 151 W. Wilson – Apex Proposal – The neighborhood steering committee is meeting again on Thursday, November 12th at 5pm. (This does not conflict with the CNI meeting on the Edgewater Hotel proposal later that night; however, Alder Verveer expects he will be at a Common Council budget meeting). Apparently, Apex is working simultaneously on multiple proposals throughout the city hoping to see one or more move forward. Discussions with the steering committee have been ongoing. The last presentation was on the massing of various structures on the site. The proposal is still building around two houses on lots that Apex does not control. The topic of this next meeting was not known. Those interested in this proposal are welcome to attend meetings, but if you are not a committee member your participation may be limited to keep meetings focused. If you are interested in joining this or any neighborhood steering committee contact Pete Ostlind. He will advise you on meeting times as well as how to get up to speed on a proposal.

6) Alder's Report – Alder Verveer arrived after the police officer's report as he was at a special meeting of the Plan Commission; staff was leading a discussion of broad themes in the Downtown Plan (i.e. density vs. single-family conservation, landmark districts). There is another scheduled meeting on Monday November 30th (5:30-7:30pm) probably in room 300 of the municipal building. The Downtown Plan continues to proceed at a slower pace than previously

discussed. After the November 30th meeting, the staff will prepare and probably make final recommendations in January. Alder Verveer anticipates a public meeting in early 2010.

The Plan Commission is the lead committee for the City on the Downtown Plan. Alder Verveer gave a brief report on items of note for the Bassett Neighborhood. He anticipates that the plan will recommend strongly considering converting a number of one-way streets to two-way streets. These include W. Wilson, Bassett, Broom, one block of S. Hamilton, as well as Johnson and Gorham (outside the neighborhood). The plan recommendation would include completing a study prior to any conversion.

The plan also hopes to identify areas for growth (denser site development) versus improving and maintaining existing housing stock. Several recent apartment projects in the neighborhood are considered successful, but recommendations will likely include not covering the entire lot. With the development of the former Badger Bus Depot site, the plan will recommend planning for a multi-modal transit hub (inter-city and inner city vehicle as well as rail). Because this type of facility needs a significant amount of space, business sites around the historic train depot are being put on the radar for City investment.

Asked about preservation of the terraces on West Washington, Alder Verveer said that it appears that the plan will not recommend installing boulevards, but leave the wide terraces along West Washington intact with the exception of adding a few small refuge islands. Alder Verveer noted that one is already in the work plan for 2010 by the new Hyatt Hotel. He also noted that the City is considering improving the uncontrolled (no traffic light/stop sign) crosswalk at the W Main/S Fairchild intersection (signage, possible bump out) but that with parts of the outer ring scheduled for construction in 2011 any physical changes other than signage may be delayed until then. There was some discussion about pedestrian safety crossing any outer ring streets.

Next Alder Verveer discussed the budget. The City is at the end of the process. The Board of Estimates (BOE, the City's finance committee) put together a budget that amended the mayor's proposal. The process now involves two to three nights (November 10-12 starting at 5:30pm) of reviewing amendments to that budget which separates capital and operating budgets. Public testimony will only be heard at the beginning of the meeting on Tuesday night. Each speaker has 5 minutes for each budget. Capital budget testimony is taken before operating budget testimony but some speakers use part of their 5-minute capitol budget time to add a quick statement about an operating budget item. The mayor usually attempts to group testimony by subject. People generally speak to a specific amendment, but the public can speak to any budget item. After public testimony, amendments are then discussed by numerical order with a vote on the capital budget prior to moving on to the operating budget.

Alder Verveer reviewed amendment items of interest to the Bassett Neighborhood. Items d-f were successfully added to the BOE budget by Alder Verveer. The Operating Budget is mostly labor costs, but Alder Sanborn has proposed two amendments of interest (items g-h).

- a) Central Library – Alders Schumacher and Compton have an amendment that would require the City to have a firm commitment for federal tax credits and \$4 million of \$10 million in private financing pledges in hand prior to moving forward on this project. Verveer is opposed because it could jeopardize the Library Foundation's ability to raise private funds delaying the project. He is optimistic, but does not have a sense of the vote.
- b) Edgewater Hotel – an amendment removing reserving TIF money for this project. Currently, a Common Council vote is needed to allocate TIF money for this project. Passing the amendment to remove the money from the budget now would mean that a super-majority vote would be needed to offer TIF funds later. Alder Verveer expects a close vote.
- c) Roof of Central Library – an amendment proposed by Alder Verveer to require the project to investigate the possibility of a community garden or a green roof so that Fiore's projected

estimated costs can be verified and assessed. There is an active vocal group pushing for a community garden so this amendment keeps both options alive. Since there is no fiscal impact, Verveer anticipates that this will pass.

- d) Brittingham Boat House – an amendment sponsored by Alder Sanborn to remove a challenge grant for additional renovations that would add plumbing to the boathouse. The Camp Randall Rowing Club staffs the boathouse and raised a substantial amount of money privately and used some TIF money to renovate the boathouse. But there is no indoor plumbing. The budget sets aside (from the Park Impact Fee fund - money from developers) up to \$60,000 for a dollar for dollar match of privately raised funds to add plumbing for restrooms and drinking fountains. The amount of money raised would affect how the renovation is implemented. There was discussion about outside access with electronic locks given that three port-o-potties are on-site to serve the rowers as well as fishers who use this park and general area heavily. Parks, and therefore access, are closed at 10pm.
- e) Installation of New and Replacement Street Trees – an amendment sponsored by Alder Sanborn to remove using TIF money (about 10K each) from and for three active downtown districts to accelerate the planting of trees in those districts.
- f) Capitol Square Streetscape Improvements – an amendment by Alder Sanborn with three to four co-sponsors to remove \$2 million in funds from a northside Capitol Square TIF to finish streetscape improvements on the square and extend through the 100 block of each spoke off the square. Use of this funding is possible through a change in TIF law that allows money to spent within a half-mile of an existing TIF district. Improvements include planters, benches, bicycle racks, plantings and irrigation systems as well as infrastructure improvements to prep the tabletop at Hamilton/Pinckney/Mifflin for an planned outdoor plaza in front of the new Madison Children’s Museum site at 100 N Hamilton. The Madison Rotary Club has pledged to raise money for the plaza that will include generous seating and be available for public use as well as for museum events. Costs are specific to planned items and, as TIF money, there is no impact on the general operating budget. This item passed the BOE on a 5-1 vote.
- g) Capital Revolving Loan Program – an amendment by Alder Sanborn to remove this funding which includes the matching façade grant program used in the past by many businesses on State and King Sts as well as a new residential lighting matching grant program to help improve exterior lighting.
- h) Homelessness Outreach Grant – an amendment by Alder Sanborn to remove this funding proposed by Alder Verveer (as has been previously offered over the years) for grant money given to non-profits in response to an RFP process. Alder Verveer may seek to amend the grant funding to specifically address AODA and chronic drug issues since residential burglaries appear related to offenders supporting drug and alcohol habits.

Alder Verveer asked about the Bassett Neighborhood Cleanup – Pete responded that this has been delayed to spring given that the last proposed date was the date of the annual Bedford Court cleanup and dates beyond that were considered too iffy weather-wise.

Alder Verveer also noted that he had had some construction-related complaints about activity before 7am including on weekends at the former Badger Bus Depot site. He discussed these complaints with Stevens Constructions and also noted that the city interprets starting engines before 7am as allowable. The job site trailer has also been pushed back from the intersection to improve visibility at the intersection.

7) Other Items brought forth by residents — None.

8) Adjourn. Adjourned at 8:30pm. Next meeting second Monday, December 14, 2009 at 7pm.