

**Bassett Neighborhood District Monthly Meeting**  
**7:00 p.m., 12 November 2007**  
**Meriter Retirement, Small Dining Room, 333 W. Main St.**

Attending: Melissa Berger, Paul Brandl, Jonathan Cooper, David Knuti, Rosemary Lee, Stefanie Moritz, Paula Oeler (minutes), Pete Ostlind (chair), Mike Verveer (alder).

**Meeting called to order at 7:03 p.m.**

**(1) Introductions**

**(2) Approval of minutes** - October meeting minutes accepted as written.

**(3) Report of Community Police Officer Mark Allen**

Community Police Officer was not present, see Alder Report below.

**(4) Development Projects Status Report:**

**Capitol West / Hyatt Hotel Update (J. Cooper)**

Jonathan Cooper reported he received a letter a week or so ago that a Specific Implementation Plan (SIP) will be filed about December 1. Jonathan will be scheduling a steering committee meeting to hear what will be in the SIP. Rosemary Lee asked who received this letter. Pete Ostlind said it was the 30-day notice sent to the CNI President who copied Pete (Bassett Neighborhood Chair) and Jonathan (Steering Committee Chair). Rosemary would like the steering committee to get copies of the notice letter.

**Neighborhood Meetings Scheduled for 2 Apartment Projects (P. Ostlind)**

Pete Ostlind announced that two neighborhood meetings have been scheduled in the Auditorium of the Meriter Health Center (ask at the receptionist desk).

- Cliff Fischer proposal at 31 S. Henry Street will be Monday, November 19 at 7 PM.
- McGrath proposal at Bassett & Wilson Sts. will be Thursday, November 29 at 7 PM.

Alder Mike Verveer noted that postcards would be sent to the entire district. The cards will be going out tomorrow pre-sorted first class. One card will announce both meetings; the developers will be billed for the mailing costs.

**(5) Bassett TID Update**

Pete Ostlind stated that additional funding will be available in 2008 for various district projects, including trees, pedestrian crossing improvements and bus shelters. Alder Mike Verveer announced that he has supported a budget resolution for \$450,000 for continued under grounding of utilities in the district. MG&E owns many of the poles; AT&T and Charter also own some. Under a Public Service Commission Ruling, if the utility chooses to remove a pole, other lines (like cable or phone) must allow be removed. Alder

Verveer was able to elicit a commitment from Madison Gas & Electric CEO Gary Walter to complete work on their poles before the TIF district is closed at the end of 2008. Poles under consideration to be removed from the following streets:

- 300-500 blocks of Doty (between Hamilton & Bedford) (Charter)
- Wilson between Broom & Bedford (Charter)
- Wilson from Bedford to Hamilton (AT&T)
- 600 block of W. Main (MG&E as well as Charter, RVP Fiber & TDS Metrocom)

There was further discussion about the specifics of underground utilities as well as about the resolution (a capital budget amendment with no fiscal impact). The public hearing for voicing support for both capital and operating budget amendments will start at 6:30 PM tomorrow night (Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>) – the first night of three nights of budget work. Alder Verveer confirmed that other alders always benefit from hearing support for amendments just prior to voting. People can register (without speaking), but these written registrations have not always been read into the record.

Stefanie Moritz asked about Broom Street re-surfacing, specifically that there is no undergrounding of utilities planned. It was confirmed that when a street is re-constructed that plans should call for undergrounding utilities. A re-surfacing project will not, but it may get new pedestrian scale lights (depends on project). Street light costs are assessed to property owners.

The additional funding Pete Ostlind mentioned earlier was via a Board of Estimates Amendment with a fiscal impact of \$207,000. Again, projects include nicer bus shelters, 100 new trees, re-surfacing 600 block of W. Doty, a pedestrian island in the 300 block of W. Washington, and audible pedestrian crosswalks at 2 or 3 major intersections. Alder Verveer noted that while the amount many seem low, there were other offset savings costs in the operating budget via TIF funding.

Many trees on Bedford St. were not removed (saved by coating storm sewer boxes rather than replacing the storm sewer). The poles have not come down because yet since their removal was predicated on replacing the storm sewer. Pete Ostlind has requested an estimate of a project cost to remove those poles.

City employee Marla Eddy will be determining sites for the “100 trees” to be planted in 2008. There may be fewer trees due to lack of placement opportunities, purchasing more expensive larger trees, purchasing warranties, and including the cost of watering in the contract. Paula Oeler voiced support for the watering since many student renters may not realize the importance of watering trees. Alder Verveer suggested that Marla Eddy be invited to a meeting to talk about the trees (where, varieties, etc.) David Knuti thought that meeting might draw a crowd. (Marla is tentatively scheduled for the February meeting)

### **Bedford Street Re-Surfacing**

This project should be completed any day, including a stop sign at Bedford and Main Sts. Stefanie Moritz noted that a section of sidewalk by the Trainor building is not complete

and a light is not working on the east side. Alder Verveer made a note. A different contract will see the installation of railroad crossing gates at Bedford and Wilson. Both contracts require clean up.

**(6) Street Sweeping**

Pete Ostlind reported that the previous plan to begin curb to curb street cleaning in the downtown has been put on hold by Al Schumacher (Streets Dept.) since the cost will not yield the needed results for improving lake water quality. The City will maintain an annual “post and tow” program downtown. Alder Verveer said that the City would be installing more ‘pillows’ in the storm sewer boxes instead. These cost quite a bit, but the technology does a better job than street sweeping. Perhaps regular street sweeping can be added in 2009, but the state restriction on how much the City can spend means this program cannot compete this year as a priority with other existing programs facing cuts and the Mayor’s call for 30 additional police officers.

**(7) Alder’s Report**

**(a) Community Police Officer**

Captain Mary Schauf made a decision to remove Mark Allen from the Central Police Command Community Policing Team. Officer Allen has been assigned a beat and may be seen driving a patrol car in the district. Officer Carrie Hemming has been temporarily assigned to our district (as an addition to her normal assignment). The team will have one less member until annual assignments are shuffled around in late January. Alder Verveer asked Pete Ostlind to invite Officer Hemming to the December and January Bassett Neighborhood meetings.

**(b) Quiet Zones**

Steve Sonntag forwarded many emails to Alder Verveer regarding the quiet zones. Alder Verveer surmised that Tammy Wagner of the US DOT is displeased that Madison has not yet received its plan approval for Quiet Zones 1-3. She will be taking the issue to a higher level. Alder Verveer noted that he is getting calls and emails from any number of people now that an expected deadline for quiet has passed. He spoke with both Steve Sonntag and Larry Nelson. Larry Nelson thinks that Balfour Beatty ( RR contractor) needs the gates at Bedford and Wilson and at the dead-end of Doty at the bike trail installed. The latter gate will have a key lock for city personnel to open and pass through to plow and maintain the city bike trail.

**(c) Budget Amendments**

Besides the utility-related amendment, Alder Verveer noted two other amendments: a request for 30 additional police officers and a request to not expand the metro bus wrap advertising program. He is disappointed that a pilot program is being expanded during its test phase because each wrap generates about \$50,000. If the amendment does not pass, as many as 5 additional buses - most on routes that travel downtown - will be wrapped soon. Alder Verveer noted he has made the same safety arguments that others are making: the City is putting cameras on buses to deter crime, yet we’re wrapping buses in dark, obscuring colors. The colors are also darker than the legal

limits for window tinting which can impair bus as well as other driver's abilities to see the road.

Rosemary Lee voiced her opinion that it was important to support the request for 30 cops as well as funding for purchasing individual rifles for all officers.

**(d) Ordinance re: Billboards**

Alder Verveer anticipates seeing an ordinance put forth in the next few months by Alder Jed Sanborn to remove a moratorium on billboards likely in support of a request by Outdoor Adams Advertising. He noted that he has worked hard to remove billboards in his district. A majority (11 votes) would be needed to pass the ordinance.

**(e) Liquor-Related Items**

Rosemary Lee noted that she is thankful for the Law Park liquor ban. Alder Verveer commented that Police Captain Mary Schauf spoke at the Fourth Ward Lofts Annual Meeting (where he lives). Captain Schauf noted an up tick in criminal activity in the Bedford/West Washington corridor. The team is trying to be pro-active in dealing with a group of hard-core drinkers who lining up to buy 4-packs of beer for \$1.99 at Kelly's Williamson Mobil Mart each morning. Alder Verveer is planning to push hard for stricter requirements on sales at liquor license renewal time.

There was general discussion about the impact of homelessness and the no-drinking rules at many places of shelter (Porchlight, Central Library, etc.), how operating a wet shelter would divert needed funds from treatment programs, and the increase in arrests of alcoholics on State St. Rosemary Lee expressed disappointment that she did not see more people at the first CNI-sponsored Homelessness meeting and encouraged people to attend the next one on Saturday, November 17 at 2 PM at Central Library.

Stefanie Moritz noted that a vandalism incident around Halloween has left white paint marks on the fence by U-Haul. Alder Verveer said the fence is city-owned and he made a note to have it cleaned up.

**(7) Downtown Plan 2008**

The City will be developing a Downtown Plan during 2008. No details or dates yet, but expect public input will be sought in the first quarter. The process will be similar to the comprehensive plan, but it will build in more detail. It will be as specific as looking at the appropriateness of the zoning of each parcel. This is a great opportunity for neighborhood input. Neighborhood input allows decision-makers to point towards reasons for plan specifics.

**(8) Status of Building Representatives for Increasing Membership in CNI**

Pete Ostlind continues to encourage folks in multi-family buildings to step forward to reach out to neighbors with membership application flyers. He will bring some in December. He also suggested reviewing and updating the Bassett Neighborhood

welcome letter for new owners (versus the fall welcome letter targeted at new student residents).

**(9) Other Items**

**(a) Small Cap TIF**

CNI has people (Sheridan Glen, Jean Devitt, Fred Mohs, Pat Meehan) working on an inventory of possible houses that may work well with the Small Cap TIF program. CNI is considering hosting an open house to explain the program now marketed as the Bassett Neighborhood Homebuyer Program. The City will be appointing a contact person in Percy's department. There was some discussion about the program basics (see previous meeting minutes) as well as the amenities that Bassett lacks (pre-school, playgrounds) that may deter some folks from participating.

**(b) Police Report**

Alder Verveer commented that Captain Schauf reported at the Fourth Ward Lofts Annual Meeting that crime is low with the notable exception of activity by known-alcoholics.

**(10) Adjourn**

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Next meeting: 10 October at Meriter Retirement, 333 W. Main St.

Respectfully submitted by Paula Oeler, 29 Nov 2007