

Meeting Minutes of Mifflin West Neighborhood - Aug. 12, 2009

Attendants: Rick & Diane Broughman, Dory Christensen, Pattie Heiser, Pat Morris, Larry Warman and Ruth Yarborough.

Guests: Adam Plotkin and Alder. Mike Verveer.

On Wednesday, August 12, 2009, our regular monthly meeting of Mifflin West district was called to order by Larry Warman, Chairman, at 7:00 p.m. and he welcomed everyone. The meeting was held at the Madison Public Library on W. Mifflin Street.

Minutes from the last meeting of Mifflin West District were read by Pattie Heiser and were approved as read.

Dory and Ruth gave a report on the Garden Walk and Geranium Sale. The two fund raisers together cleared over \$4600, including sponsorships. This was a benefit for the treasury of CNI. The Garden Walk will probably not be scheduled soon again, maybe in two or three years. Results were modest for the amount of work expended. The suggestion was made that the day would have been better if scheduled on Sunday rather than on Saturday. Farmers' Market was too much competition, and not a help. It was a very well organized effort. It is hoped that the Geranium Sale can be held again in the Spring and developed to reach more flower lovers and to further beautify the downtown.

The status of plans for the new or rehab of our current central library were discussed. Alder Mike Verveer was very helpful, answering a myriad of our questions and adding information. He indicated that the city budget will be finalized by mid-November and so decisions by the mayor must be made by September 1st. This is all very soon, so our neighborhood input must be earlier still. He is apparently leaning toward the Fiore new building plan that fronts onto West Washington Avenue. It could be built and then the Library moved in all at the same time. If they rehab the building on Mifflin, half of the building would be in use as library and the other half would be rehabbed. And then the reverse. Much noise and mess for library users and for the staff. Mike mentioned that the Central library has been on hold for many years while some of the other libraries in the area have been updated and new buildings built. The cost of building downtown is great and so had been put off many times. So everyone feels that the time is now.

Last week Larry and Ruth attended the meeting at the Library where the Milwaukee architectural firm gave a presentation of what was possible in rehabbing the current building. They thought they could start in late 2010 and finish in 2012. They gave the cost of \$20 million if an additional floor was added to the top of the building, along with a roof garden, the outer skin of the building was restored and a complete renewal inside.

Although this cost is a little less than half the cost of a new building as proposed by the Fiore Company, the Mayor has given the Fiore group a request to re-crunch their numbers, to be sure that their figures are safe and that the developer's profit is accurate. The opportunity to speak was given to everyone. Most everyone seemed for the Fiore option. Dory Christensen made a motion that Mifflin West support the Fiore plan as the best option for the Central library and Pat Morris seconded it. It passed unanimously by voice vote. This vote is to be taken back to the CNI-executive council by Adam Plotkin for consideration of action by CNI in the form of a letter to the mayor.

Next Alder. Verveer was asked to enlighten us on the progress of the City's Downtown Plan for our Mifflin West district. The Bassett district plan has been in place for some time and dictates that the houses there remain, a low density area. However, across W. Washington Avenue in Mifflin West they are considering much higher density. It was suggested that we need to hear more about this. So we will try to set up some of the city planning staff to attend our next regular Mifflin West meeting in September, to help us better understand the city plan.

Next M. West meeting will be planned for Thursday, Sept. 10th at 6:00 p.m. at Central Library or the Senior Center on Mifflin. Larry will check on the availability of one of these locations. I know here it will be the Sr. Center. Mike Verveer will check on the availability of the City Planning people. Please put that date on your calendars.

Larry brought up the fact that our Mifflin West neighborhood still has 2 empty chairs for members on the CNI-ec. He thought if one chair could be agreed to tonight, the other could be found later. This, of course, would mean the person agrees to be nominated to the Council, the vote would be at our CNI-Executive Council meeting at the end of August. He asked Rick if he would agree to be nominated. Rick agreed he would.

Ruth made a motion we adjourn. Pattie seconded the motion at 8:50 p.m.
Meeting was adjourned.