

**Bassett Neighborhood District Monthly Meeting**  
**7:00 p.m., 9 July 2007**  
**Meriter Retirement Small Dining Room**  
**333 W. Main St.**

Attending: Paul Brandl, Jonathan Cooper, Vince Jenkins (minutes), Griffin Klema, Rosemary Lee, Alan Nathan, Paula Oeler, Pete Ostlind (chair), Alder Mike Verveer, Rich Yaeger.

- 1. Meeting called to order at 7:02 p.m.**
- 2. Introductions**
- 3. Approval of July minutes:** Minutes on file at Jo's Tazzina but not yet distributed via the neighborhood e-mail list at meeting time.
- 4. New Bassett representatives to Capitol Neighborhoods Inc. (CNI):** Jonathan Cooper (returning), Griffin Klema, Melissa Hogg. P. Ostlind briefly mentioned the function of CNI and its meeting schedule (the fourth Tuesday of each month at the Capitol Building), the CNI web site <http://www.CapitolNeighborhoods.org> and the Bassett e-mail list [BassettNeighborhood@yahoo.com](mailto:BassettNeighborhood@yahoo.com).
- 5. Report of Community Police Officer Mark Allen:** Officer Allen was absent.
- 6. Development projects status reports**
  - a. Capitol West/Hyatt Hotel, 337 W. Washington (J. Cooper):** The neighborhood steering committee has met alone and with the developers, who will present their plans at a general neighborhood meeting. When a neighborhood date is set, notice will be distributed via the list serve. Meanwhile, their first review presentation before the Urban Design Commission is on Wed., 11 July. Per the city process, they will then go before the Plan Commission and the Common Council for approval of changes to the general development plan (GDP), planned unit development (PUD), and specific implementation plan (SIP) necessitated by the introduction of the hotel concept into the Cap. West development.  
  
Steering committee's primary concerns: protrusion of entry way porte cochere into the Capitol sight lines up W. Washington; and intent to cut a loading zone into the east curb terrace. The building's exact height is not known at this time, but appears in drawings to be shorter than the condo building at 309 W. Washington. Residents of Metropolitan Place (across the street) appear happy with the prospects for their property values in view of the planned hotel.

- b. Re-construction of a stone or brick wall at the southeast corner of S. Henry and W. Washington caused the closure of the sidewalk, for which a permit had been secured, but it remained blocked without a flag person past the permitted hours. After it was reported, Alder Verveer assured that the barrier was cleared and the sidewalk open.
  - c. **451-453 W. Washington** (Navin Jarugumilli, developer): the building has been repainted. Navin has indicated that there are structural and engineering issues with the building to be resolved prior to work beginning on the conversion into a bistro/restaurant/bakery.
  - d. **Meriter Heights tower:** the entry lot on S. Henry is closed while the windows are replaced and a new skin installed on the northeast side.
  - e. **Bassett and W. Wilson** southeast corner (Todd McGrath, developer): a development proposal is expected in the next couple of months.
7. **New minutes taker needed:** V. Jenkins will take Bassett minutes through August, after which a new minute taker is needed.
8. **Alder's report** (M. Verveer)
- a. **Kelly Nolan**—Local law enforcement officials believe they have found the body of the UW-whitewater student who has not been seen since 23 June.
  - b. **Lucille's Rockin' Piano Bar proposal**—A meeting was planned tonight (9 July) between concerned residents and the developers of a proposed piano bar on Capitol Square. Verveer plans to host an open neighborhood meeting on Monday, 16 July. The residents at 100 Wisconsin have objected to the proposal and have countered Lucille's suggestion of 300 capacity with their own recommendation of 150.
  - c. **Alcohol density plan**—the proposal goes before the Alcohol License Review Commission for approval on Wed., 18 July. It may be referred until after Labor Day. Government cannot force mixed commercial use but downtown landlords must lower their expectations for rents if businesses besides bars are to open there. Downtown Madison, Inc., has unanimously rejected the alcohol density plan.
  - d. **Jo's Tazzina**—Owner Jo Chern plans to apply for a liquor license (beer and wine) in August or September. The coffee shop is not open as late as typical bar time and there is no major objection to the application anticipated.
  - e. **S. Bedford & 600 W. Main reconstruction**—work began today (9 July). According to sewer utility staff, all the trees on the west side of Bedford will

be removed because they are directly over the 100-year-old sewer line to be replaced. City forestry will replant the terrace as part of the reconstruction.

- f. Four-way stops, Main & Bedford and Doty & Bedford**—Verveer thinks signs may be installed at one intersection, but probably not both.
  - g. Meriter request for curb cut, Main St.**—Meriter residents want a curb cut and ramp installed outside the Main Street door for passenger loading because the drive-up circle on S. Henry is closed during the re-facing project on the east side of the Heights building.
  - h. Street sweeping**—Verveer hoped that the Dept. of Natural Resources would support regular street sweeping to reduce lake pollution. The DNR prefers pillow-like screens in sewer drains but seems willing to discuss using both in combination. Regular sweeping continues in other neighborhoods and there is a “strong feeling” among Bassett residents to establish such a schedule here.
  - i. Quiet zone**—construction of traffic gates at downtown railroad intersections is progressing.
  - j. Small cap. TIF program**—Mark Ohlinger of City Planning has given Verveer a draft plan which stipulates funds, usually provided to large-scale developers, for resident owners to rehabilitate and inhabit run-down houses in downtown. The program needs to be publicized in order to attract applicants. A requirement that the applicant reside in a rehabbed house can’t be strictly applied because it would inhibit applications for restoring multiple-family units. Perhaps incentives in addition to money would attract applicants. Ohlinger will be invited to a regular neighborhood monthly meeting to discuss the program.
- 9. Other items brought forward by residents:** no other issues were raised by residents attending.
- 10. Adjourned at 8:08.**

Next meeting: 13 August at Meriter Retirement, 333 W. Main St.

Respectfully submitted,  
Vince Jenkins