

**CAPITOL NEIGHBORHOODS, INC.**

**Minutes of Annual membership Meeting Held June 30, 2015, at Monona Terrace Convention Center.**

**I. PRESIDENT'S OPENING REMARKS.**

CNI President Jeff Vercauteren opened the meeting by summarizing our accomplishments over the past year. He believes we accomplished the goals set in our strategic plan of July 2014 to improve communications, programming and outreach, and collaboration with other organizations. Thanks to the efforts of Scott Kolar and Davy Mayer, our modernized website, communication, newsletter and membership system will be ready for a “soft launch” soon.

**II. ANNUAL ELECTION OF DISTRICT NEIGHBORHOOD REPRESENTATIVES TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.**

Attendees were provided a ballot listing those candidates up for re-election this term as district neighborhood representatives on the CNI Executive Council. Vercauteren opened the floor for nominations to fill vacant district representative positions on the Executive Council. Seeing none, Vercauteren opened the floor for a motion to approve the slate of neighborhood representatives as listed on the ballot.

A MOTION by Jonathan Cooper, with a SECOND by Adam Plotkin, to approve the slate of candidates as district representatives on the CNI Executive Council, each for a two-year term, is APPROVED. Accordingly, the following are chosen to serve on the EC for two-year terms beginning now:

**Bassett District:** Samantha Negrin, Pete Ostlind, Jeff Vercauteren.

**Mansion Hill:** Fred Mohs.

**Miffland:** Adam Brabender, Rick Broughman, Larry Warman.

**III. INTRODUCTION OF GUEST SPEAKER.**

County Supervisor and CNI member Mary Kolar introduced tonight's featured speaker, State Representative Chris Taylor. Kolar noted that Taylor was elected to the legislature in 2011 and represents most of downtown Madison. Taylor was the former policy and political director of Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin and helped win the passage of the “Passionate Care for Rape Victims Act.” Taylor is a UW Law School graduate and did her undergraduate work at Pennsylvania University. Kolar discussed Taylor's work on the legislative budget committee, and mentioned budget items targeted only at Dane County.

**IV. REMARKS BY GUEST SPEAKER CHRIS TAYLOR**

Rep. Taylor and her husband live with their two sons on the east side of Madison. Taylor serves on the Joint Finance Committee which presently consists of sixteen Republicans and four Democrats. The committee is in the process of reviewing the proposed state budget. Taylor called the budget as

presented by the Governor “devastating” and, she believes, most Wisconsinites do not approve of it. She announced that the Republicans reached a budget agreement at 6:00 p.m. just before this meeting.

The cuts to K-12 education are, Taylor said, second only to Alabama. Cuts to education have resulted in an “avalanche” of local school spending referenda around the state because “we have cut to the bone.” There were 270 such referenda statewide since 2011. Funding for public education represents the lowest percentage of GPR in 20 years. We should be alarmed, she remarked.

The budget provides for \$1.9 billion in tax cuts, mostly to corporations who do not have to create jobs in return. These tax cuts, she added, will cost the rest of us \$575 million over the biennium. Taylor commented that the economic problem is on the “demand” side rather than the “supply” side because consumers lack money to purchase goods and services. She noted that a family with a \$30,000 annual income has the same tax rate as a family with a \$325,000 income. “These were choices” that the Republicans made, she observed.

The budget cuts to the UW will have a significant impact on an institution that has a \$15 billion economic impact and is responsible for the creation of 193,000 jobs in the state. Taylor commented that UW is the state’s “economic engine,” not the WEDC. We are losing researchers because of the cuts. Budget cuts at DNR have resulted in the defunding of a large number of scientists at the Bureau of Science Services. Taylor believes this was done in retaliation for their analysis of the impact of open pit mines up north. She believes the driving force behind budget decisions will now be politics rather than science.

The state parks system lost all of its funding in this budget. Instead, the parks system is to experiment with “self-funding,” a concept that Taylor claims has not worked anywhere else. She warned us to “be alarmed” and to pay attention. Taylor believes that the proposal to repeal Wisconsin’s prevailing wage law will cut income for middle income workers and makes no economic sense.

Taylor pointed out that Dane County is being singled out and “targeted” in this budget with respect to water quality oversight, the Enbridge pipeline and exemption of towns from its zoning requirements. Taylor warned about the “Omnibus 999” motion that adds budget provisions at the last minute that she has just received. Many things are imbedded in that lengthy omnibus package that will require thorough review in a very short time frame. She is concerned about a provision that targets Madison by giving the UW Board of Regents the power to authorize charter schools. Taylor noted that charter schools are not accountable and they take \$8,000 per student away from public schools. She added that the “Omnibus 999” motion up for vote on Friday contains provisions targeted at Dane County and Madison, such as dictating how Madison can use its hotel room tax, determining shoreline construction setbacks, taking away Dane County’s ability to work with the DNR to formulate a water quality plan, exempting Hill Farms from Madison city zoning codes, and allowing towns in Dane County to opt out of Dane County zoning requirements. Taylor urged everyone to be more vigilant than ever and to stay engaged.

Taylor then took questions from the floor. Responding to a question about transportation, Taylor called the budget’s approach to transportation “a mess,” with lots of cuts but no effort to look at

sustainable funding mechanisms. When one attendee observed that her message to us is very dark and asked, "Where is the sunshine?" Taylor answered that people are now waking up to what is going on and getting active.

- V. Vercauteren closed the meeting and reminded everyone to watch for the rollout of the new CNI website soon. The meeting was adjourned, and followed by socializing.

**NEXT EC MEETING:** *Tuesday July 28, 2015, 5:15 p.m., Central Library Third Floor.*

AGENDA for July 28 EC Meeting

- I. CALL TO ORDER AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM (Vercauteren).
- II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MAY EC MINUTES AND JUNE ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES.
- III. TREASURER'S REPORT (Plotkin).
- IV. DOWNTOWN POLICE REPORT.
- V. COUNTY SUPERVISOR'S REPORT (Mary Kolar).
- VI. ACTION ITEMS/NEW BUSINESS:

**Annual Meeting Report;**

**Newly-Elected EC Members;**

**Election of EC Officers;**

**Other.**

- VII. OLD BUSINESS

**Update on membership/communications system upgrade;**

**Madison College Downtown Campus update;**

**"Shake the Lake" report;**

**"Make Music Madison" report;**

**Update on recent and upcoming CNI programs;**

**Other.**

- VIII. DISTRICT REPORTS:

**Mansion Hill, Bassett, Mifflin West, First Settlement, James Madison Park.**

IX. ALDERPERSONS' REPORTS.

X. PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Vercauteren).

XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**Program (open), Membership/Media/Development (open), Policy (Vercauteren), DROC  
(Ostlind), Finance (Plotkin), Physical Linkages (Mayer), Garden (open),  
City Issues Monitoring (open), Judge Doyle Square (Plotkin).**

XII. ADJOURNMENT.

**\*Agenda subject to change by Vercauteren.**