

CAPITOL NEIGHBORHOODS, INC.

**Minutes of Annual Membership Meeting Held Tuesday June 13, 2017, at
Monona Terrace**

- I. The meeting was called to order by CNI President Jeff Vercauteren.**
- II. Election of Neighborhood Representatives to the CNI Executive Council.**

Vercauteren circulated a slate of candidates for each of the five districts. All four neighborhood representatives in Bassett are up for re-election this year: Jonathan Cooper (Chair), Mike Herring, Samantha Negrin, and Pete Ostlind. All four neighborhood representatives in Miffland District are also up for re-election this year: Tim Kamps (Chair), Adam Brabender, Rick Broughman, and (new candidate) Madelyn Light. There is one open seat each in First Settlement and James Madison Park districts. The other representatives in those two districts (O'Brien and Skrentny in First Settlement; Fisher and Montes in James Madison Park) will be up for re-election in 2018. Fred Mohs is up for re-election in Mansion Hill District this year and there is one open seat in that district (Ingebritson will be up for re-election next year).

Vercauteren asked for nominations from the floor for any open seats and additional candidates. Hearing none, he entertained a motion to approve the slate of candidates. A MOTION by Cooper, with a SECOND by Herring, to approve the slate of candidates for election this year as district representatives to the Capitol Neighborhoods Inc. Executive Council for a two-year term each, is APPROVED.

- III. GUEST PRESENTATIONS –Urban Forestry.**

UW-Stevens Point Professor of Urban Forestry Richard Hauer and UW-Madison Professor John Harrington, of the Department of Landscape Architecture and the Gaylord Nelson Institute of Environmental Studies, both gave presentations on urban forestry policy, benefits and decision-making.

Prof. Hauer discussed the benefits of urban forestry in general, and shade canopy trees in particular. He proclaimed that “shade sells.” There is evidence that trees and urban green spaces help conserve energy, improve health, reduce pollution, decrease crime, and increase property values. Green business districts attract people and money. While it takes one or two

decades to break even on investment in urban forestry, the value increases exponentially after that point.

Professor Harrington, who is also a member of the City of Madison Urban Design Commission, agrees that canopy trees provide economic benefits as they grow. Canopy trees are far more beneficial as street trees than are ornamental trees. The challenges to planting canopy trees are the lack of urban space, bad soil, overhead power lines, and maintaining sight lines at intersections. There is a need to diversify species. Harrington urged city planners to make trees a priority and not an afterthought. He believes that Madison is taking some positive steps in this regard and is showing that it values trees. City agencies and committees, as well as private organizations, are at work on urban forestry issues. Harrington referred to the “Madison Sustainable Plan” which, he said, includes creating a comprehensive program to make trees a priority. Madison does not, however, have a master plan like Portland’s that is updated every year. We need to make the commitment; public education and participation is important. Harrington agreed with Hauer that trees help reduce heat, and we need more space and good soil for trees. Harrington noted that 80% of trees are on private property where there is less diversity in species than on public property. The lack of diversity may create future problems. He believes we need to educate private land owners and developers to help them diversify. It is important to start at the beginning of the planning stage to include plans for protecting trees on development sites. We should explore the actual costs and benefits of undergrounding utility wires to protect canopy trees. It is important that everyone is talking to each other and that trees have a place at the start of the planning process. Harrington concluded his remarks by stating that trees are an important part of the city’s infrastructure. It is now a matter of prioritizing.

MEETING ADJOURNED

NEXT EC MEETING: Tuesday July 25, 2017, 5:15 p.m., Central Library, Third Floor.