

CAPITOL NEIGHBORHOODS, INC.

MINUTES of Executive Council Meeting Held May 27, 2014

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayer (President), Warman, Queensland, Plotkin, Ostlind, Montes-Tydrich, Cooper, Ingebritson, Kamps, Fabick, Vercauteren, Fisher, Trish Codde, Skrentny, O'Brien.

GUEST PRESENT: Madison Police Lt. Donahue.

- I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER by Mayer. There was no quorum at the outset.
- II. TREASURER'S REPORT. Plotkin reports a total bank balance of \$13,743.52; consisting of \$5,023.33 in Checking, and \$8,720.19 in CDs.
- III. DOWNTOWN POLICE REPORT. Lt. Donahue reports that planning continues for Rhythm & Booms June 28. It is difficult to plan for the event due to the unknown of having it for the first time downtown. Police are planning for the worst but hoping for the best. Staffing will include several jurisdictions.

All went well with the Mifflin Street block party on May 3rd. Donahue said police learned how to better spread out staff as the day went on. They dealt with a large crowd of 400-500 in a yard on Mifflin St. Langdon Street was described as "very peaceful" with the help of the "Greek" community. There were, however, what she described as last-minute crowd control issues with the alternative event on the UW campus.

In-field training of 35 new officers is ongoing and they will begin solo patrols June 29, 2014. Staffing shortages over the past year required removal of an officer from the Community Policing Teams (CPT) around the city to relieve patrol shortages. Officers were also pulled from other positions for six months to fill vacancies. The downtown CPT has felt the sting of shortages. Donahue hopes this will soon be relieved with the influx of new officers.

Police recently arrested a man for a downtown burglary who was on parole for burglary. Another man was arrested for theft from auto; he may have been involved in the recent rash of those crimes.

It is the time for annual liquor license renewals before the ALRC. Several establishments in the Central District that have created police work are having their licenses reviewed for possible restrictions or non-renewal.

Police continue to receive many calls relating to the homeless. There have been a number of complaints about the behavior of homeless at the City-County Building, the Municipal Building and Monona Terrace. Donahue reports that a "core group" of about ten people have generated most of the police work.

The Traffic Enforcement Safety Team is monitoring the speed of traffic on E. Mifflin and side streets. They have not found a lot of excessive speed, probably due to the large volume. To deal with

the large back-ups on Johnson St. and Wisconsin Ave. during construction, police have asked the construction company to hire an off-duty officer to assist with traffic flow.

There have been recent “bar-jackings” in and near downtown. This occurs when large groups of people go from place to place just to be disruptive. One of these resulted in gunfire at the Brass Ring recently. Some bars are taking steps to curtail “bar-jackings” such as closing early. Donahue noted that bars can call police when large groups gather late at night, even before anything happens, so that police can make their presence known.

Two recent officer shootings of citizens are under investigation by the Department of Criminal Investigation in the State Department of Justice, pursuant to a new law requiring outside investigation of officer shootings. According to Donahue, officers are worried about what else might happen this summer based on what has already happened. Montes-Tydrich asked about the recent robbery of the Market Basket convenience store on E. Mifflin. Donahue said police have a person of interest, but it remains an open investigation. Montes-Tydrich also reports that her car was broken into; she has the break-in on video, and was able to track down the suspect. Montes said she called police but has not heard back. Donahue suggested that she work with the officer who took the report. O’Brien asked about recent tavern robberies around Atwood and Williamson Sts. Donahue answered that police were making progress in those investigations.

Warman asked about bikes using traffic lanes during construction. Donahue answered that vehicle drivers have complained about bikes using traffic lanes. She added, however, that bikes may legally use traffic lanes on John Nolen Dr. during the bridge construction on the bike path. Warman suggested that the city may have to plan for alternative bike lanes during construction. Donahue answered that this is an issue for Traffic Engineering. In response to a question by Cooper, Donahue believes the recent traffic congestion throughout downtown is the fallout of the Johnson St. reconstruction.

Kamps asked whether police were still having issues with “open carry” of firearms by individuals. Donahue said there has been nothing new recently; it started and ended.

Mayer asked what residents should do if people cause problems during Rhythm & Booms. Donahue does not know what to expect, but suggested posting “no trespassing” signs because police will then be able to enforce the law. She said police will respond to citizen calls if people refuse to leave your property. In response to Mayer’s question, Donahue said those attending may sit on street terraces but cannot block sidewalks. Police will cover three zones and will have officers on bikes and on foot between Olin Park and Law Park for the event.

[There is now a quorum]

IV. MINUTES of April EC meeting are APPROVED without change; on MOTION by Kamps, SECOND by Ostlind.

V. ACTION ITEMS/NEW BUSINESS.

Review of EC Candidates for Election at the Annual Meeting June 26. Mayer summarized the list of candidates up for election in the various districts. In Mifflin West – Tim Kamps. In Mansion Hill – Fanny Ingebritson. In First Settlement – Dan O’Brien, and there are two open seats. In James Madison Park – Cliff Fisher and Lupe Montes-Tydrich. In Bassett – no one is up this year (three terms expire in 2015). As a point of clarification, in response to Montes-Tydrich’s question, Plotkin said the bylaws require that Mike Queensland be up for election this year, not next, in James Madison Park because he was appointed to fill a vacancy last year.

Landmarks Ordinance Review. Vercauteren reports that the first meeting of the city’s ad hoc committee to review the landmarks ordinance meets for the first time tomorrow (5/28). Vercauteren said he will attend the committee meeting in a professional capacity and plans to be active. In response to a question by Warman, Vercauteren explained he will not be there in a formal capacity but informally in his capacity as Vice-President of CNI. He will also be representing a client. Vercauteren revealed that he got into CNI to help bridge the perceived gap between the neighborhood and the development community. The committee consists of alderpersons only. Montes believes someone from CNI should serve on the committee as well.

VI. OLD BUSINESS.

CNI Office Space Update. Queensland reports that Curt Jacobson from West Washington Self-Storage has offered us a 10’ x 10’ storage unit, but it costs more than he anticipated. Jacobson will keep us informed as units become available, Queensland added. Jacobson rejected Queensland’s offer of exchanging storage space for advertising in our newsletter. Queensland will continue to work on this.

VII. DISTRICT REPORTS.

James Madison Park. Queensland notes that anyone needing updates on Johnson St. construction can go to the city’s website. According to the city’s project manager, they are ahead of schedule and hope to start paving soon on the six-way intersection. Utility work is underway now. The longer term plan is to finish that end first, because there is more traffic between Hamilton and Blair Sts. than there is between Blair and Baldwin Sts. Construction has forced traffic into different areas. One suggested approach is to take Bassett to W. Wash., then around the Square to E. Wash. There have been reports of road rage at the intersection of Johnson and Wis. Ave. There is no easy solution. Montes-Tydrich added that there is a huge pothole on Wis. Ave.

Vercauteren asked for an update on funding for James Madison Park. Montes-Tydrich answered that the city is holding meetings to discuss how funds should be used. She is concerned the money won’t be spent on the park. When people ask her for an update, Montes-Tydrich tells them to send an e-mail to the Mayor’s office. There have been meetings for the last two-and-a-half years, and she is concerned about setting up yet another ad hoc committee. She is also concerned about the proposal for a dog park in JM Park. Montes-Tydrich added that a group of volunteers headed by Elizabeth Walker have been cleaning up planters in the park.

According to Montes-Tydrich, residents are concerned about recent robberies and break-ins in the district. Her own car was broken into after she inadvertently left the door unlocked and \$300 of property was taken. She expressed disappointment that even though she tracked down the thief, nothing was done by police.

Montes-Tydrich reports many trees in the district are coming down due to Emerald Ash Borer. The city is taking down all ash trees that are sick, less than 10 inches in diameter or under power lines.

Bassett. Cooper reports that the Keller development proposal at Bassett and Main Sts., 502-04 W. Main, is moving forward. Two buildings will be demolished and replaced by a new building similar to Tuscan Place across the street. They propose 18 apartment units with retail on the first floor. There are concerns about losing the building currently at 502 W. Main that dates from the 1860s. This, Cooper said, points to the need to act proactively to determine what buildings in the district are of historic significance, as was done in the 1998 inventory of historic properties. This building was not included in that inventory, he noted. Ald. Verveer chaired a large neighborhood meeting last Thursday to discuss the project. Cooper expects it will move forward. Vercauteren added that he reviewed the staff report to the UDC and it contains a recommendation that the developer either preserve part of the building or move it.

Cooper reports the city will implement some of the proposed improvements for Brittingham Park where North Shore crosses into Proudhatt. There are issues about a pedestrian crossing over railroad tracks. City parks is reluctant to put a sidewalk there. Vercauteren added there was a lot of discussion at the meeting about the Main Depot tavern's proposal to add a rear patio. Fourth Ward Loft residents have concerns. Cooper said the Main Depot's owners will return next month with finalized plans. Mayer noted that the residents who live closest to the tavern expressed concerns, but were supportive and want to try and work things out. Fisher commented that new residents often move into a neighborhood and complain about things that have been going on there for a long time. Cooper cited the recent WORT Block Party as an example of this phenomena, where the station was unable to get 75% of the residents on the block to agree to close the street, but added that the party turned out well in its new location on MLK Blvd. Fisher believes the city should be able to do something about this, or the same thing will eventually happen in other areas such as Williamson St. Cooper described it as "ironic" that WORT cannot close its street for eight hours, but the city can close down John Nolen Dr. for an entire day for Rhythm & Booms.

Mifflin West. Kamps described the Mifflin St. Block Party as "sedate" as of 5:00 p.m. The activity was equivalent to that on the "Final Four" basketball weekend in April. He noted that in past years, residents asked for an "after action" report from the police about the party, but no such request was made this year. Police contacted Mifflin area houses in advance to encourage cooperation.

Kamps reports that traffic issues are acutely impacting the district. The construction on W. Mifflin St caused the water in Kamps's home to be shut off all day. He received 4-5 days' advance notice of the shut-off.

The Les Orosz “Johnson Bend” development proposal, calling for a 12-story building next to the “Domain” project at Broom and Johnson Sts., is a little behind schedule. There are issues regarding soil and parking. They also abandoned the automated parking idea. The steering committee has prepared a position statement. It may now open a year later, Kamps added.

Kamps reports the Boldt Co. project at the end of W. Mifflin St. for an apartment building and transit center is now on “permanent hold” due to funding issues regarding the transit center component. Mayer added that the developer wanted money from the city but the city was not willing to provide it.

Codde asked what is being done about people congregating at the top of State and Mifflin Sts. near the Square. Kamps answered that it seems less hostile recently. He does not know how much can be attributed to increased surveillance and a stronger police presence. Mayer attended a recent meeting organized by DMI to find solutions such as programming events in partnership with “100 State.” Mayer noted that police now watch activities on live video feed from the cameras there and respond as needed. Kamps reports the “Block 100” development project will be completed in June and the restaurant on Fairchild St. will open soon. A website is up and Kamps hopes there will be retail that fits the character of State St. He described these as “exciting times” for the district.

Kamps reports that liquor license applications up for review include Underground’s request for an 18 + entertainment license and Madison Opera’s request for a license to sell liquor at events held in their new space on the first floor of Metropolitan Place on W. Mifflin.

First Settlement. Skrentny reports that the developers of the proposed apartment building at 330 E. Wilson St. have been meeting with the district steering committee, city staff and UDC. This has resulted in several positive changes to their proposal for a six-story, 35-unit apartment building and first floor retail that would replace the existing building; but substantial concerns remain. There is a neighborhood meeting June 4, 6:30 p.m. at St. Patrick’s church to discuss the project. Remaining concerns include: the proposed modern and taller building is on a narrow site surrounded by historic structures, constructed with more traditional materials, and are 2-3 stories tall. The steering committee is concerned about design, and has suggested a step-back of the upper floors to make it more compatible with surrounding buildings. Skrentny said the developers have made several informational presentations before the UDC and are now in the process of submitting formally. He also notes the project will provide only seven parking spaces (with some bike parking). The steering committee has recommended a condition on approval that would prohibit residents of the building from applying for on-street parking permits. The developers believe that owning a car will be less important to their tenants as more transportation options become available downtown. Skrentny agrees that we need fewer cars downtown.

Work on Crowley Station continues on E. Wilson St. Volunteers mulched and weeded last weekend. Leaf blowers were used to remove debris.

Skrentny reports that the Madison Design Professional Work Group has presented to the South Capitol Transit Oriented District (SCTOD) what he called an “intriguing plan” for the hairball intersection

at Blair, John Nolen, Wilson and Williamson Sts. (Skrentny and Mayer are members of the SCTOD). It is, he said, a visionary proposal to tunnel under John Nolen Dr. from the east end of Monona Terrace and emerge past E. Man St. Railroad tracks would remain at grade, but the street would be below grade. Vercauteren asked about the water table. Skrentny answered it should not be as great of a problem because the only use underground would be for car travel. According to Skrentny, this proposal came before the SCTOD late but immediately gained traction. It could be joined with proposals for improvements to Law Park. Its proponents also believe funding sources, including federal money, are available. Similar projects have been built in other cities the size of Madison, they maintain. The proponents want the SCTOD to incorporate their proposal into its recommendations.

Skrentny is looking for individuals to fill the two vacant district seats. Mayer asked whether Marina Condo residents might be interested. Skrentny believes some may be, but there have been no commitments yet.

In response to Vercauteren's question, Skrentny reports that a new Venezuelan restaurant has opened in the Cardinal Bar in the space formally occupied by Cortadito restaurant. He declared that the food is good.

Mansion Hill. According to Ingebritson, there has been a "lull" in district activities recently, but construction is causing many U-turns on Langdon St. and Wisconsin Ave. despite the signs. She added that residents are concerned about changes to the landmarks ordinance.

VIII. PRESIDENT'S REPORT.

Mayer reports he met with Steve Cover and Katherine Cornwell separately. He said Cornwell would like to meet with us to discuss proposed zoning and landmark ordinance changes. We could either set this up as a CNI program, or have her present at a special EC meeting.

Mayer wants to start up anew the regular EC meetings with the Mayor. The last one was in January. He will try to set one up in the next month.

Mayer has reached out to Rita Kelleher to discuss planning for Rhythm & Booms but has not heard back. He commented that people are getting nervous as the event draws nearer.

The CNI Annual Meeting is **Thursday June 26, 2014, 7:00-9:00 p.m., at Monona Terrace**. Dane County Executive Joe Parisi is the featured speaker. The annual election of neighborhood representatives on the EC will also be held. Mayer prefers that someone else run for his seat as President. He added that having an active Vice-President has been helpful in easing the burden of the job.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Policy. Vercauteren reports the committee is moving quickly on the action items for the year it recently laid out. They met with Joe Tarr from the *Isthmus* newspaper, resulting in last week's article on the development process in which Pete Ostlind was quoted. They also met last week with *Wisconsin*

State Journal Editorial Page Editor Scott Milfred and discussed downtown issues. They were not, however, invited to sit in on the editorial board meeting and expressed their displeasure to Scott. They plan to meet the following week with representatives of *The Capital Times*. Finally, they will meet tomorrow (5/26) with County Exec. Joe Parisi to discuss his presentation at the June 26 CNI Annual Meeting on the topic of county involvement in issues of importance to downtown residents.

CNI and DMI will jointly host a special "Meet the Chief" program Monday July 21, 2014, where residents can meet new Madison Police Chief Mike Koval. It will take place at the Central Library Third Floor Community Room, 7:00-8:30 p.m. The topic of discussion will be the future of policing in Madison. According to Vercauteren, they are considering a presentation about the new jail by Sheriff Mahoney at a future program.

X. ALDERPERSONS' REPORTS.

Verveer is the only alder present. He reports that CVS Pharmacy on W. Wash. and Bedford will seek a full liquor license that would include hard liquor. He invited their representatives to the Bassett district meeting. Verveer expects that, if it is approved, Walgreen's may follow suit to seek a license for their store on the Square (the State St. Walgreen's is still in the ALDO and so is not eligible).

The proposal by Urban Land Interests to renovate Anchor Bank on the Square was approved over a year ago. They have now added an ambitious component to demolish their parking ramp at Doty and Carroll Sts. and construct an apartment building with underground parking. They may apply for TIF money. In response to a question by Kamps, Verveer said this would be part of the bank expansion project approved last year but parking would have to be phased in. Kamps said he had heard we would begin seeing progress on the bank in early June. Cooper commented that the new proposal is something far beyond alterations that were approved a few months ago. Verveer agreed, noting that he had signed off on some minor alterations to the original approved plan; but this is all new.

Verveer will announce at the next City Council meeting the arrangements made between the city and Findorff regarding their project in Bassett. This will include expanding the city sidewalk all the way to Bedford St. City Parks Dept. decided not to wait for the railroad and will start work but will not include a railroad crossing.

Verveer reports that radio station WORT-FM was pleased with the success of its recent block party at the new location on MLK Blvd after it was not permitted to hold the party in front of the station on Doty St.

Verveer and Mayer were appointed to serve on a new city committee created to discuss public restrooms downtown. The 2014 city budget has set aside \$300,000 for restrooms and porta-potties downtown. Verveer noted that the Peace Park restroom is accessible only when an Ambassador is staffing the center there. One topic of discussion is whether we should leave restrooms open longer, or even 24/7.

The owner of A.J. Bombers on Gorham St. is proposing to create a “parklet” in three parking spaces in front of his business. He wants to build a wooden structure that would extend the sidewalk café into those spaces. A “parklet” involves temporarily converting street parking spaces into alternative uses, such as outdoor seating or a bike corral. The parking spot is temporarily turned into a public space. The concept has been used in other cities, including Milwaukee. This was discussed by the Downtown Coordinating Committee. The owner of the Plaza Tavern is opposed due to the loss of parking. The city may move forward by issuing a lease. In response to a question by Mayer, Verveer said the rate would be the same as what a contractor would pay to “bag” a parking meter; it could be several thousand dollars a summer. Ostlind added that it would be the same rate as if you were plugging the meter the entire time. According to Verveer, A.J. Bombers’ owner could also pay an additional café fee that would allow him to leave the platform and furniture out all summer. In response to a question by Warman, Verveer said the parking ordinance would have to be amended to allow him to use the space for this purpose. The owner of A.J. Bombers wants to use the space for this summer only. Cooper suggested giving the Plaza a break on city fees to help make up for lost parking.

Verveer announced there will only be one 2015 public city budget conversation with the Mayor and city department heads this year. It will take place June 16, 2014, 7:00 p.m., at the Central Library.

“Ride the Drive” will take place on its normal route downtown this Sunday (6/1) from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (The fall ride will be in the Schenck-Atwood neighborhood). Classic “Cars on State St.” will take place Saturday June 7.

MEETING ADJOURNED*

***NOTE: There will be NO EC meeting in June. The next meeting is the Annual Membership meeting Thursday June 26, 7:00 p.m., at Monona Terrace.**

The next regularly-scheduled EC meeting will be **Tuesday, July 22, 2014**, at the Central Library.