

***CAPITOL NEIGHBORHOODS ASSOCIATION***  
**MINUTES of Executive Council Meeting Held February 28, 2014.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Vercauteren (President), Kamps, Cooper, Broughman, Herring, Fisher, Montes-Tydrich, Ostlind, O'Brien and Verveer.

GUESTS PRESENT: Madison Police Capt. Jason Freedman, Madison Officer Berkovitz, and Todd Winston and Ilse Hecht of the "Off the Square Club."

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER by Vercauteren. There is no quorum.

II. TREASURER'S REPORT. Warman, who is not present, sent out a written report showing that our bank balance as of February 17, 2017, was \$20,429.99. We have outstanding bills of \$500 for the CNI holiday party and \$475 to State Farm Ins. Co. for liability insurance (due in April). We received \$90 in income from paid membership dues.

III. DOWNTOWN POLICE REPORT.

Captain Jason Freedman introduced himself as the new Captain of the Central District. He is happy to be here and expects that either he or another officer will attend future meetings. Freedman spent the past seven years on the Dane County Narcotics Task Force. He was promoted to Central District Captain by Chief Koval upon Capt. Carl Gloede's retirement. Issues he will face include alcohol, underage drinking, football weekends, behavior problems at the top of State St., and improving communications. Ilse Hecht asked whether the increase in opiate addiction is prevalent in the Central District. Freedman answered that it "is everywhere," but we don't have as many overdoses as in other districts. He expects that we will see more overdoses with synthetic drugs that can be purchased on the internet. It will become an issue downtown and some users may already be associating with others at the top of State St. Hecht asked whether he has any suggestions for those of us who live here. Freedman answered that we need to break the cycle of addiction that was created by the over-prescription of drugs for too long. It is now much harder to get those drugs and there are fewer new people coming into the system. Narcan has saved lives. Freedman suggested that we support candidates and legislation encouraging treatment, to be vocal and to keep up the pressure for resources. He urged us to call "911" if we see an overdose occurring. Verveer noted that every officer carries Narcan and Madison officers are now routinely saving lives.

Freedman has had to deal with a couple of serious batteries at bar time on recent Friday nights. He welcomes candid input about what is and is not working. He cited a recent conversation with the owner of Cleary's Popcorn who expressed his frustration as a business owner about some of the issues. Fisher said he recently saw homeless people pouring vodka into a bottle across from the library at 7:15 a.m.

Freedman acknowledged that it is a 24-hour problem and there are different solutions for different times of the day. Fisher added that when he left last month's EC meeting around 6:30 p.m., he saw a fist fight between two men in front of the library. He called "911" and the men left. He complained about the lack of security at the library, but Verveer insisted that the library works hard on security. Freedman believes we have sent "mixed messages;" while we are trying to enforce the laws, others are encouraging the homeless to stay and advocates are trying to help them. There is no simple solution and we need resources. We need to figure out how to change the culture and the environment that encourages bad behavior. Officer Berkovitz noted that police have done much enforcement, but it is difficult to enforce our way out of this. Arrests and ticketing have only a minimal impact. There are also legal restrictions on enforcement. The top of State St. has become a "hangout" for a variety of people, many of whom are not homeless. Freedman said that police are trying to formulate a consistent approach so that behavior "A" on Monday is dealt with the same way as behavior "A" on Friday, whether it occurs in the morning or at night. Verveer announced that Capt. Freedman will attend the next Bassett District meeting.

#### IV. NEW BUSINESS

##### **Presentation: "Off the Square Club."**

Ilse Hecht and Todd Winston gave a presentation about this organization located in James Madison Park district that Hecht called a "small but very important group" taking care of mentally ill people in downtown Madison. The non-profit organization was founded in 1978 and since 1990 has been part of Lutheran Social Services. It works to provide a safe environment for people with mental illnesses and provide connections to social services, while accommodating daily needs such as meals, laundry, showers (since November), and access to computers and phones. Winston described the club as a smaller version of the Day Resource Center that will open soon serving a specific subset of people – those with mental illness, 50% of whom are homeless. The vast majority of them, homeless or not, live downtown. In 2014, when Winston joined, they served on average 21 people a day. They now average 40 people a day, half of whom are homeless and all of whom are in extreme poverty. Some of the people they serve had been sleeping at the City-County Building and others hung out at the top of State St. They work to get these people out of that environment and behaving appropriately. They work to build relationships while maintaining a strong relationship with the Police Dept. and its mental health liaison. Winston noted that the 40 people they serve each day would otherwise be out somewhere else creating problems. The club has been operating out of the basement of St. John's Lutheran Church for about 10 years. Last year, 200 attended. This year, 109 people have already attended. Cooper asked how people connect up with the club. Winston answered that they hear by word of mouth, are referred to them or are brought there by police. He added that it is easy

to become a member but they need more staff. They received a grant from the city, they can earn money from the county as Medicaid reimbursement for one-to-one services, and the rest of their funding is from Lutheran Social Services. Fisher asked if the club is comparable to Yahara House. Winston answered that it is easier to become a member and there is more flexibility in “Off the Square Club.” Most of their members are not well connected with the mental health system when they come in.

Hecht said the organization needs money and asked CNI to consider including “Off the Square Club” in its annual budget, and to be a sponsor of its fall fundraiser; adding that this provides CNI with an opportunity to give back to the community. Vercauteren said we will discuss this at our next EC meeting when the Treasurer (Warman) is present. Capt. Freedman asked what the capacity is. Winston answered that they have not set a limit and are extremely flexible; some people are there all day while others just come for lunch. The food is provided by the Community Action Coalition. Fisher said the Indian restaurant in his building might be able to provide unused food as well. He and Winston will discuss this. Winston added that they will also take extra clothes, backpacks and the like. They have also discussed doing more outreach downtown to find people who would fit in. In response to Cooper’s question, Winston said there are volunteer opportunities. Hecht added that they need members on their advisory committee. Hecht noted that there was an article about the club in the last issue of the “Downtown Dialogue.”

## V. OLD BUSINESS

### **Nominations for Historic Preservation Awards.**

Vercauteren reports that nominations are due this week for historic preservation awards from the Madison Trust for Historic Preservation. Anyone with suggestions of properties in CNI for awards should submit them now.

### **Madison College Relocation.**

The organization that presented here last month (Children’s Theater of Madison and other arts and science groups) is submitting an RFP for the downtown campus is hosting a community meeting next Monday (3/6). All RFP responses are due by March 15.

### **West Washington Corridor Study Committee**

Cooper reports that the committee has not met since the last EC meeting. The next step is to do a walk-through of the area.

### **State-Langdon District Reincorporation into CNI.**

Vercauteren has nothing new to report. He will check with alder Zack Wood after the April election.

### **Museum Project.**

Ostlind reports that the various agencies involved with this project are trying to sort out where they are. The project was not enumerated in the governor's budget and they are still working through details.

## **VI. REPORT OF THE ALDERPERSON.**

Verveer reports that the relocation of Madison College has been a topic of discussion in Mansion Hill. There are five finalists and several of the development teams have approached him to arrange a meeting with Mansion Hill stakeholders. He reports that Fred Mohs has agreed to facilitate those meetings. There was a meeting with city planning staff last week to discuss the impacts on zoning, on the downtown plan and on the landmarks ordinance.

According to Verveer, the application for a sidewalk patio for the new restaurant at 222 W. Wash. appears to be non-controversial. Kamps commented that the food at the restaurant is very good. The Landmarks Commission is considering a proposal to enclose part of the outdoor portion of the historic train depot on W. Wash. at the request of Gib Altschuld, owner of the new restaurant there. He proposes enclosing part of the tracks and the platform for an all-season market. Preservation Planner Amy Scanlon has concerns and the matter was referred last night.

There will be a public meeting to discuss the proposed reconstruction of W. Wilson St. and S. Henry St. from MLK Blvd. to the Henry St./South Hamilton intersection. There is controversy concerning the proposed dedicated two lane bike path there. City staff is opposed to removing parking stalls. A compromise was reached to expand the sidewalk from 5 ft. to 8 ft. and remove trees in the path. Crews would work around a mature, recently treated ash tree there. Another public meeting is needed to consider all of the alternatives including removing trees, removing parking stalls and expanding the sidewalk. The next public meeting is Monday, March 20, 2017, 6:30 p.m., Rm. 351 of the City-County Building.

A traffic signal will be installed where Gorham and University Ave. converge as part of the Bassett St. reconstruction. Installation of a bike "facility" will require the removal of every tree there, including some mature trees. The proposal was approved by the Pedestrian and Bicycle Committee and it now goes before the Public Works Commission. There is a public meeting to discuss city parks and open spaces March 22, 2017, 5:30 p.m., at the Central Library. Verveer encouraged our attendance, adding that we need a downtown park in Miffland.

There will be a second public meeting to discuss the John Nolen Corridor Study at Monona Terrace in April. This study addresses what to do about Law Park and the intersection at John Nolen, Blair, Wilson and Williamson Sts. Verveer reports that Lance McGrath has now obtained approval to lease the property behind his proposed high-rise apartment building on E. Wilson St. next to the Marina condominiums to the city. This will allow for public lake access in the future. McGrath has granted the city an easement dedicated to providing pedestrian and bike access to Law Park. The prospective owner of the proposed market at Bedford and Mifflin Sts. was granted an alcohol license with nine conditions. The owner has now decided not to pursue the purchase of the property. Fisher asked that something be done to remove the buses that idle behind the Overture Center. He believes they should park elsewhere.

## VII. DISTRICT REPORTS

**James Madison Park.** Lupe Montes-Tydrich announced that she is working to revive the district. She is considering holding meetings in the first week of each month. She believes the district will need more participation as more people move in. She supports Fisher's development proposal for 40 affordable "micro" apartment units that has run into city opposition even though Fisher seeks no subsidies. She believes approval should be a "no brainer" because it will provide service people who work downtown with affordable living units. Fisher added that he has received the signatures of 200 people in support of his project, and 11 opposed.

According to Vercauteren, Ald. Zellers is forming a steering committee to review the RFP to spend money previously allotted in the city budget for improvements to James Madison Park. This is money set aside from the sale of the houses in the park years ago that still has not been spent.

**Miffland.** Kamps reports that the second meeting to discuss the W. Wash. Planning Initiative was well attended by neighbors, stakeholders and city planning staff. It was confirmed that city staff won't have the resources until October at the earliest to commit to the initiative, but it is encouraging that this is in their plans. Kamps added that city staff wants to take the lead on soliciting public input, but committee members may still try to informally engage the public early on. A "walk through" is already planned within the next couple of weeks. Cooper noted that the city wants to include the same blocks on W. Mifflin St. in the planning process. Kamps responded that, if so, they will now be looking at six blocks in all, not just the 400 and 500 blocks of W. Wash.

As noted above, Kamps reports that he ate at the new Casetta Italian Deli at 222 W. Wash. and he likes it. The restaurant is open until 7:00 p.m.

**Bassett.** Cooper reports that Nostrano's restaurant on the corner of S. Hamilton and the Square has closed and the building was sold to "Food Fight," who intend to open a Mexican restaurant called "Canteen." He noted that Francesca al Lage restaurant on MLK Blvd. also recently closed abruptly and will be replaced by a Mexican restaurant as well. The new "Porter" restaurant at the old train depot on W. Wash. serves breakfast, lunch and dinner. According to Cooper, representatives from ULI wish to attend the next district meeting to present their plans for yet another new 9,000 sq. ft. restaurant at Doty and S. Carroll Sts. as part of the new Anchor Bank Building. According to Vercauteren, there are a total of five restaurant spaces allocated between the Anchor Bank Building and the new building being constructed behind it. Ostlind noted that there have been alterations to the approved construction plan for that site.

~~ULI has a potential restaurant tenant who would like to use the second floor outdoor terrace along Doty St. for events. The restaurant wants to set up a tent for these events. To do so, the five trees in the planters that are part of the terrace landscaping would have to be removed. They wanted to expand the upper floor and assured everyone at the time that the trees would not be replaced if it was approved. The trees are now gone. They initially said they wanted the trees, but not now, Ostlind said.~~

**First Settlement.** O'Brien reports that work continues on the renovation of 409 E. Main St., the old Progressive Building that will now house the Hawks-Quindell Law Firm. Completion is expected by the end of March. The Cardinal Bar has been sold by Ricardo Gonzalez and will reopen under new ownership as the "Nomad II." The owner, Mike Eitel, has operated the "Nomad" bar on Brady St. in Milwaukee for over two decades. He envisions appealing to soccer fans, opening early in the morning on occasion so fans can watch soccer matches overseas. He intends to keep many of the events that have become popular at the Cardinal including live jazz and Latin music. The proposed "Hail Mary" sports bar at the site of the former Monastery and Bellini's restaurants on N. Hancock and E. Wash. did not receive ALRC approval and it appears to be dead for now.

Ostlind reports that the new "Café Coda" owned by Hannah John Taylor will have its grand opening Saturday (3/4). It is located in the bar behind the "Fountain" where Doty and State Streets converge. Taylor plans to have live performances six days a week.

MEETING ADJOURNED

**NEXT EC MEETING: Tuesday March 28, 2017, 5:15 p.m., Central Library, third floor.**

AGENDA for March 28 EC Meeting

- I. CALL TO ORDER AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM (Vercauteren).
- II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 2016, JANUARY 2017, AND FEBRUARY, 2017 EC MEETING MINUTES.
- III. TREASURER'S REPORT (Warman).
- IV. DOWNTOWN POLICE REPORT.
- V. ACTION ITEMS/NEW BUSINESS:  
**Planning for 2017 Programs and Initiatives;**  
**Proposal to Budget for "Off the Square Club" and/or to Sponsor Its Fundraising Event;**  
**Other.**
- VI. OLD BUSINESS:  
**Madison College RFP Update;**  
**W. Washington Corridor Plan;**  
**Museum Project Update;**  
**State Street Retail Business Study and Potential Action;**  
**Judge Doyle Square Update;**  
**Proposal to re-incorporate State/Langdon District into CNI;**  
**Update on Homeless Day Resource Center;**  
**CNI Membership Outreach/Growth Strategy Next Steps;**  
**Update on Website/Membership/Communications System Upgrade;**  
**Other.**
- VII. DISTRICT REPORTS:  
**Mansion Hill, Bassett, Mifflin West, First Settlement, James Madison Park.**
- VIII. ALDERPERSONS' REPORTS.
- IX. PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Vercauteren).
- X. COMMITTEE REPORTS:  
**Program (open), Membership/Media/Development (open), Policy (Vercauteren), DROC (Ostlind), Finance (Warman), Physical Linkages (Mayer), Garden (open), Education and City Issues Monitoring (open).**
- XI. ADJOURNMENT.

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