

MNA Board Minutes – May 21, 2009 Approved 6/18/2009

MNA Board Meeting, May 21, 2009

Present: Michael Jacob, Anne Walker, Troy Pickl, Amanda Schwoegler, Deb Hanrahan, Scott Thornton, Julie Spears

Excused: David Hecht, Jon Gramling, Sara Ishado, Mariah Miller

Guests: Fae Draemock, Mark Olinger, Ted Voth, Christina Steel, Brian Chaney, Lindsey Lee, Marsh Rummel, Peter Wolff

After introductions Brian Chaney (item #2) gave an update on neighborhood police issues:

The Ped/Bike/Motor Vehicle Commission is meeting on May 26th and will be discussing crossing guard issues at Marquette/O'Keefe. A child was hit by a vehicle at Thornton and Jenifer. They may recommend moving a crossing guard from another location.

The Vending Oversight Committee is meeting on May 27th. There is a concern about the hot dog vendor by the St. Vinny parking lot. There have been issues with verbal and visual vulgarity. The committee may recommend moving the vendor to a different site.

Minutes from April (item #3) were approved.

Treasurer's report was not available. Board approved making \$1,000 available from the community improvement grants to the landscaping project in front of the Elks, if it is determined that the funds were used for another project last year. (item #4)

We will fill the board vacancy left by John Coleman at the June meeting. (item #5)

We will invite Ha Long Bay to the June meeting. They were already granted a liquor license. (item #6)

Mark Olinger gave an update on the Central Park project (item #8). They will be seeking our support for the phase 1 project. Phase 1 will cost about \$3.5 million and could be completed by Earth Day, 2011. The committee's goal is to get the project moving. The rail crossing at Few St. is critical and needs approval from the State Railroad Commissioner.

Mark suggested that the park's management could be something like the Olbrich model to ensure its long-term sustainability. He also talked about the Millennium Park model (Chicago) where the park is not technically a city park.

After the plan is approved by the City Council the next big thing will be to work on the rail crossing. That will be in late summer or fall.

Deb volunteered to draft a letter of support for discussion at the June meeting. Peter requested that a meeting be held with the neighborhood to discuss the park in advance of the board meeting. Scott will set that up.

Julie passed around a sign-up sheet for the Waterfront festival. (item #9)

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Peter reported on the Traffic Committee (item #10). They met with neighbors from Rutledge/Baldwin who were concerned about the idea of having their stop sign removed. The committee resolved the issue and will not suggest removing the sign.

They are planning more meetings with the neighborhood.

Need to start thinking about Willy Street construction and finding alternative parking for businesses. It was pointed out that we really need to support our local businesses when the construction starts.

We heard an update on the Apex proposal from the Preservation and Development Committee (item #11). There was a meeting with the city on May 12th. Some were concerned about the approach of the city staff. Giving up easements would not be a good deal for the Parkway or the neighborhood. Meeting did not discuss the development proposal, but the issues with land ownership.

Ed Jepsen talked about the work on revising naming and memorial policies for city parks (item #7).

Marsh shared her alder report (item #12). Some things that have or are going on are the ALRC agreed to a restriction on sales at the Willy Street, BP; the Conservation District (Dewey Ct/Schley Pass) will be going to be introduced soon; the Transit and Parking Commission did not reappoint Carl DuRocher; meetings on city well #8; Fete de Marquette is moving to a different location (E. Washington & Dickenson) because Madison Metro would not accommodate them; the Fiore design was chosen for the new library.

Michael reported that there are 133 people signed up on the listserv and 82 active members.