

MARQUETTE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION BOARD
SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING & BOARD MEETING, WIL-MAR CENTER
APR. 15, 2010 MINUTES

Board Members: Michael Jacob, Jeff Voltz, Anne Walker, Julie Spears, Linsley Lee, Bess Hambleton

Officer Liason: Brian Chaney

Also present: Peter Wolff (arrived 7:25); Marsha Rummel (arrived 7:48); Gary Tipler (8:37)

1. Call to order
2. Update from Brian:
 - a. RE: Grampa's Gun Shop, only can say that investigation is ongoing.
 - b. Guy casing Star Liquor has been reported several times, hoping to get him for a stop and may be a lead on who has been committing some of these burglaries.
 - c. Continuing auto break-ins and vandalism. Tenney Lapham continues to be hardest hit.
 - d. Since weather is getting nicer, thinking of asking neighborhood to organize a late-night walk—less formal than a “neighborhood watch,” but with the idea of community folks getting out and reporting things that look out of place or suspicious. Julie shares story of similar activity in community where she lived in Mexico, as deterrent to crime. MJ notes that there was a group around Orton Park who had organized something like this previously. Brian notes that BB Clarke beach issue was addressed this same way.
3. Approval of March minutes: March minutes not complete, so tabled.
4. Treasurer's Report:
 - a. Cheryl not present but provided report via email.
 - b. Bess moved acceptance; second by Anne; approved.
5. Discussion of proposal to close 3 rail crossings in neighborhood
 - a. MJ's understanding is that these things aren't so much up for public comment as for legal challenge. Lindsey concerned about vitality of neighborhood as well as business interests; more narrowly, the streets should *not* be closed until after the Willy St. reconstruction is complete. Anne also notes that it should be considered whether these crossings will be closed to bikes and pedestrians as well as automobiles. Peter comments on discussion from Traffic Committee, that may not be a bad thing to have traffic redirected to signalized intersections; we don't really want that much traffic coming through there anyway; but definitely we want pedestrian and bike crossings. But Lindsey/Anne note potential effect on economic development of the corridor if neighborhood is balkanized. Anne notes that pedestrian crossing may be difficult to execute to ADA standards due to short blocks (compare to Aberg Avenue). Lindsey would be interested to know MG&E's take, as a big landholder in that area. MJ summarizes: we don't want rail crossings looked at in isolation but rather in context of traffic plan and economic development of neighborhood; need to know more about the plan and the process. Peter notes that we may already have data on car usage on those streets. Lindsey suggests finding partners to explore how this will impact the neighborhood: MG&E, DMI. Marsha (just arrived) says that all access would be

limited—no ped/bike crossing, fence at streets to effectively turn into cul de sacs. Marsha notes potential for congestion, issue of fire/emergency access in and out of neighborhood. Marsha doesn't know what MG&E's take is, has contacted Susan at DMI and is waiting for her to get back to Madison to discuss. City has budgeted to do improvements to crossings, to add gates—same improvement to safety, but we get to use our streets. Lindsey notes that GWABA would spearhead business interest here. Julie notes that at least we could expect to see more delivery trucks on Willy St. if crossings are closed.

6. Traffic Committee:

- a. Peter describes dual components of plan: inside streets being dealt with first, before arterials. Draft distributed, but Peter issues strong disclaimer that we are in no way trying to push this through at this time. Next step is to start having meetings with neighbors about specifics, and there could be further changes. Also want to meet with Dan McCormick regarding the arterials. Marsha notes that Riverside Drive will be redone this summer.

7. Membership Committee:

- a. Meeting 5/9, 10am—to discuss postcards, renewal letter.

8. Central Park

- a. Marsha: Yesterday at Parks Commission, they bumped it up on agenda without notice and approved guide; Marsha got it reopened, had Madison Skate Park Fund rep added to governing entity, made comments about concerns about sustainability re: lawn and neighborhood participation, and then it was passed, will go to council next week.

9. Values

- a. Julie states that we had 2 candidates, Ian Olson and Shaneiquia Conklin, who we recommend for scholarships: Julie moves, second by Lindsey, approve.
- b. Bess states that Scott's still looking for participation with Madison Cultural Plan. Julie notes that it sounds like he'll try to have another meeting, and would be helpful if we can facilitate putting local artists in touch with Scott to work on the Plan.

10. Preservation & Development

- a. Lindsey reports no pressing issues, did not have meeting this last month. Apex still floating out there but committee has not taken up / been approached further. Peter makes a few comments about committee process and neighborhood getting its ducks in a row. Marsha understands Apex is going to Urban Design on this. Parks wants to buy those parcels, but they're worth more than what Parks has in their budget now.

11. Alder Report

- a. Brown house at Willy and Paterson has had trees chopped down; Jeff Waldman is planning to remodel and put in 2-story restaurant (property owner is Mike Cohn).
- b. Tree ordinance is almost there—foresters fighting with engineers and city attorneys on how to value.
- c. "Intersection repair" or "city repair" project to do murals in inside-street intersections is progressing toward approval.
- d. Discussion of Central Park issue and Parks Committee meeting. Julie moves support of brief letter from our Central Park Committee stating our disapproval of the process of

that meeting and restating our interest in making sure that our neighborhood voice is heard; second by Bess; approved.

e. Julie asks about road work mess left on 800-block of Jenifer.

12. Adjourn (Bess moved/Julie seconded/approved by unanimous vote)