



PO Box 8474
Madison, WI 53708

Board of Directors

Marlisa Kopenski Condon, President	Courtney Lindl
Eric Hamilton, VP	Del Lorensen
Elle Grevstad, Treasurer	Lindsay Marlovits
Jen Plants, Secretary	Briant Novinska-Lois
Sydney DenHartigh	Wynona Pyrtel
Cailey Jamison	Kate Allen Rubin

MNA Board of Directors Meeting 7:00- 9:00 pm, April 21, 2025 MINUTES

Location: [The Wil-Mar Neighborhood Center](#), 504 S. Brearly Street

Board Members Present:

Sydney DenHartigh
Elle Grevstad
Cailey Jamison
Courtney Lindl
Del Lorensen
Marlisa Kopenski Condon
Lindsay Marlovits
Briant Novinska-Lois
Jen Plants
Wynona Pyrtel
Kate Allen Rubin

Community members:

Alder Davy Mayer
Captain Kipp Hartman
Officer Sydney Davila
Officer James Dower (Zoom)
Lisa Gaumitz, Save Our Songbirds
Bill Jolin, representing Willy Street Park
Diane Michalski Turner, representing Willy Street Park
Claire Myers
Brent Pauba
Brian Standing, representing Friends of Sid Boyum
Nancy Sloan
Mike Tarby

Board Members Absent:

Eric Hamilton (planned)

Call to Order: 7:03 pm

Approval of March Minutes: Cailey moved to approve, 2nd: Courtney, Motion passes.

MPD Update: Captain Kipp Hartman, Officer Sydney Davila, Officer James Dower (Zoom)

- MPD presented an update on nuisance properties and noted that a car accident on Spaight Street on 4/18/25 was related to drunk driving (and an arrest was made).



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- The Social Justice Center has made a request for neighborhood support and coordination to place porta potties in McPike Park to serve neighbors. MPD is against this, but a community meeting to bring together all stakeholders to discuss the issue is in the process of being scheduled.
- Officers Davila and Dower walked Willy Street last week to greet residents, and traffic was a common concern.

Alder's Report: Davy Mayer

- A porta potty will be put in McPike Park this summer as a stopgap due to the permanent restrooms having been damaged last summer.
- The board brought up the issue of the Loop the Lake race that is concurrent with the first day of Waterfront Festival. Due to safety and accessibility concerns, the Festival Committee has requested re-routing part of the race to avoid Yahara Place.
- Davy updated the board about Breese Stevens plan to enclose some of the public sidewalk and road for patrons and alcohol sales before a small number of 2025 concerts.
- Davy was assigned to the following committees: Urban Design, City County Homeless Issues, Sustainable Madison, Downtown Coordinating Committee.
- Davy can be reached at district6@cityofmadison.com

Willy Street Park Society Briefing: Bill Jolin and Diane Michaelski Turner

- Willy Street Park is private land, but operates similar to a public park. All are welcome.
- Willy Street Park Society is working with Wisconsin State Historical Society to create an archive and oral history of the park (which was originally founded to prevent a Taco John's from operating on the property).
- The annual Willy Street Park Plant Sale is Saturday, May 3.
- Neighbors are invited to pick up trash they see anytime they enter the park, and volunteers are always needed for a variety of tasks from gardening to administration.

Save Our Songbirds (SOS) Briefing: Lisa Gaumnitz

- An event last week to promote SOS was partially funded by an MNA grant.
- SOS supports advocacy and tools for individuals to support bird habitats, including the promotion of bird-friendly coffee and cocoa, how to create bird-safe glass in your home, and more.
- A variety of materials were shared in an effort to support bird life on the Isthmus and beyond.

President's Report: Marlisa Kopenski Condon

- Syd Boyum Sculpture Maintenance: The board discussed previous agreements with the city regarding MNA's responsibility to maintain and repair a number of Sid Boyum sculptures and identified a working group to gather information and make recommendations to the board as to how to move forward.
 - This working group will include Elle, Lindsay, Del, Cailey/Eric, and Marlisa. Brian Standing will consult with the group.
- Eric sent a website overhaul update to the board, and an early June launch is planned for the new site.



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- Briant offered details on some of the updates in crossing guard policies/assessment needs in the city.

P&D Committee Update

Voting item: Motion to table a request until May for MNA to maintain a solar powered phone charger/Little Free Library that UW students want to install next to the Social Justice Center in order to gather more details and a formal proposal.

Elle moved to approve, 2nd: Cailey, Motion passes unanimously.

Enhancement Committee Update

- Scholarship applications will be accepted until May 5, but no applications have yet been received.
- The winter social/bingo event was a great success and more than 20 new memberships/renewals were processed at the event.
- The annual egg hunt in Orton Park drew a number of families and continues to be a meaningful neighborhood tradition.
- The annual MNA garage sale is scheduled for Saturday, May 17, 2025, with a rain date of May 18, 2025.

Festivals Update

- Marquette Waterfront Festival is June 14-15 and preparations are in high gear. Non-food vendors have been selected, and bands have been announced.
- As this is the 60th anniversary of the Orton Park Festival, the festival committee is gathering photos from past Orton Park Festivals, and a link will soon be available to share with neighbors. .

Green Spaces & Trees Update

- A talk highlighting Sustainable Lawns & Native Plant Power Event is planned for April 29, 2025.
- The committee is now planning for Low-Mow May advocacy.

Williamson Marquette Business Alliance (WMBA) Update

- The finalization of bylaws are in process and WMBA should be fully incorporated by MNA's May board meeting.

Finance Committee/Treasurer's Report

- Finance is working on new documenting systems to allow committees to better track spending and budgets.
- Individual neighborhood sponsorships have been a great success for the 2025 festival season.
- MNA's CPA will be invited to a future board meeting.



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Report to CommComm on forthcoming newsworthy items

- Sydney will take on creating and sending the MNA Minute in May
- **Review of Board Assigned Tasks (see below)**

Adjourn: Elle motion to adjourn: Sydney 2nd. Motion passes unanimously

Meeting Adjourned: 8:57 pm

Board Tasks for April

- Jen: Create a standard Zoom link for MPD to use for board meetings and send this information to Marlisa
- Elle: Work with the Festival Committee to prepare a motion for the board to advocate for a re-routing of part of the route of the Loop the Lake event
- Marlisa: Connect Lisa and Courtney re: the Green Spaces event next week
- Marlisa: Reach out to Brian Standing and call first meeting of Sid Boyum Sculpture Working Group
- ~~Cailey: Draft scholarship announcement boilerplate that the board can forward to their networks~~
- ~~Jen: Get Elle the contact information for 2024 scholarship awardees~~
- Enhancement Committee: Make schedule for Waterfront MNA tent
- Elle: Send the Enhancement Committee a list of grant winners who have yet to respond to their award notifications
- Website Working Group: Work with Elle to ensure ecommerce works at switch to new website
- Courtney: Send email to board with 4/29 Green Spaces event details.
- ~~Jen: Send Courtney contact information for the presidents of TLNA and SASY~~
- All board members: Promote 4/29 Green Spaces event and scholarship application process to your networks
- Enhancement: Decide on price for Orton Park Festival hoodies
- Enhancement: Are we doing facepainters