

**Greentree Neighborhood Board Meeting  
January 7, 2008**

Present (area): Rick Floyd (3), Allen Youngwood (9, Treasurer), Jeanne Howard (4, Stump Editor), Earl Gritton (6), Larry Sperling (1), Danielle Gale (11), Steve Henningfield (10) and Nancy Priegel (7, President), Linda Johnson (Membership Chair)

Absent: Erica Brumm (5), Laurie Perkins (2)      Vacant: Area 8

**Community Gardens** -- Joe Mather of the Community Action Coalition (CAC) presented a PowerPoint presentation about Madison's community gardens program that offers \$5,000 seed grants to start gardens in Madison neighborhoods. GTNA can apply for a grant before the January 25th annual application deadline. Betz Pilon volunteered to oversee a grant application with assistance from volunteers. Mather and Pilon inspected one potential community garden site at the extreme south end of the Greentree neighborhood abutting the north side Hammersley Road near Theresa Terrace (Hammersley Park). Mather estimated the area where an ice skating rink was formerly located could accommodate 22-25 garden plots each about 400 ft.<sup>2</sup> This area of the park is already plumbed to provide water and has electrical service. Several board members noted it is also heavily shaded and may not present an appropriate area for garden plots. Other noted that the area had also been mentioned in the Southwest Neighborhood Plan as a potential site for a splash park.

Mather explained that community gardens receive an initial funding grant and subsequently charge families \$7.50-\$50 per plot to raise funds to cover operating expenses. Fees are set with the city based on ability to pay. "Gardens" can consist of vegetable plots, butterfly gardens, rain gardens, flower gardens or community recreational space.

Mather said typical participants include neighbors who are in rental units who might not have other access to gardening space, neighbors with heavily shaded property and people who enjoy getting involved in social neighborhood activities. He showed photos of gardens that provide side benefits including building cohesiveness among neighbors from different cultural backgrounds. To secure a grant, GTNA would have to fill out an application form, develop a plan, secure commitment from 8-10 neighbors for plots and agree on a public space for the gardening plots. Others attending the meeting felt space adjoining the Elver Park bike trail off the Chapel Hill access point might offer better light and better gardening conditions.

**Treasurer's Report** – Mr. Youngwood said GTNA has slightly under \$4,000 available and GTNA Certificates of Deposit would be maturing in April and October. He will shop among financial institutions to find competitive rates. GTNA is solvent and can cover the costs of anticipated bills.

**Membership Drive** – Ms. Johnson said GTNA has new and renewed biennial memberships from 289 families, down somewhat from our historical average of about 350 families. The membership drive was extended until Monday, January 12th. Shortly thereafter Ms. Johnson will format a new neighborhood directory that would be printed and distributed in early February. Ms. Johnson's advertising solicitation to 35 area businesses yielded a few ads sufficient to cover the cost of printing and postage for the directory.

**Recommended priorities for the Southwest Madison Plan** – Neighborhood Associations were asked to select three priority areas for work from a list of 10 or so themes identified in through the Southwest Madison Neighborhood Plan. GTNA board members selected the following issues from the list of potential priorities identified in the southwest area plan for community action to foster stronger neighborhoods:

1. Expanding homeownership in the area
2. Sustaining and expanding Meadowridge Library
3. Initiating neighborhood communication and interaction programs such as watches, walks, welcome wagon wagons, newsletters, directories and porchlight campaigns

**Greentree Stump** – Editor Jeanne Howard set a January 15th deadline for articles for the February/March issue and discussed potential story ideas.

**Annual GTNA Forum** -- An annual neighborhood –wide meeting will be held Monday, March 3rd at the West Madison Police Station meeting room from 7-9 p.m. Topics will include the community gardens program, the southwest side neighborhood plan, statements from candidates for the Dane County Board seat representing the Greentree area and a report from our neighborhood police liaison officer.

**Neighborhood Watch** – GTNA will seek a coordinator for this program.

**Adult Party for GTNA** – The annual winter get-together at Vitense Golfland has been scheduled for February 21st from 6:30-9 p.m. with a recommended charge of \$9 per person.

Minutes provided by Larry Sperling.