

**Greentree Neighborhood Association Meeting  
Falk Elementary School, Room 153 - Monday, April 7, 2008**

**Present:** Nancy Priegel, Erica Brumm, Rick Floyd, Steve Henningfield, Larry Sperling, Allen Youngwood

**Treasurer's Report** – Mr. Youngwood reports a balance of approximately \$5,000 in the GTNA checking account, one \$3,000 Certificate of Deposit maturing in April 2008 and another \$3,000 CD maturing in October 2008. He searched financial institutions for competitive rates. Given the balance, the relatively low rates of return offered at all institutions (range about 2.1-3.0% APR annually) and projected expenses, he recommended increasing the April CD balance to \$4,500 for a one-year note and judging in October whether to renew that CD for \$3,000 - \$4,000 depending on projected expenditures. Recommendation accepted.

**Review of recent and anticipated expenditures** – the February Adult Party at Vitense ran about a \$100 deficit. Anticipated expenditures for a newspaper ad for the May neighborhood garage sale and plant sale was estimated at \$35. The GTNA Garden Club expects to spend about \$65 on mulch and expenditures for the juggler booked to provide entertainment at the Fourth of July picnic were discussed.

**Fourth of July Picnic** – Mr. Henningfield will start the planing process for the picnic including asking Ms. Howard to place a notice in the next Greentree Stump seeking volunteer help for the picnic. A discussion of the Greentree Gallop footrace and walk ensued. No one had volunteered to organize the event. Ms. Brumm said a friend, Spencer Smith would help with organization. Rick Floyd said he would help mark the road course and will ask John La Breche to meet with Mr. Smith to review all the steps in planning the Gallop including ordering T-shirts, purchasing prizes, lining up help from timers, planning pre-race registration, asking neighbors to establish stops where participants can get water, etc. Ms. Priegel said she would contact Ms. Danielle Gale to see if she would again consider organizing the parade from Falk School to the Norman Clayton Park picnic site. She will also contact police and fire departments to see if they can participate by leading the parade.

**Garage Sale/Plant Sale** – Ms. Priegel said the garage sale is scheduled for the weekend of May 14-15 and the garden club's plant sale will be held on Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup>. The plant sale is an opportunity for neighbors to exchange extra garden sets and share divided landscaping plants at the beginning of the gardening season. The plant sale will be held at the Mitchell residence on Saalsaa Road.

**Slow Down Yard Sign campaign** – Mr. Sperling described the Safe Community's citywide campaign to post yard signs April 16-25 reminding neighbors to slow down in their vehicles to stay attentive to children playing outside and potentially darting into traffic. Green tree neighbors enthusiastically took yard sign distributed on the April 1 primary election day and at the April5 Falk Fun Fair and agreed to post them in their yards. Additional signs will be distributed at the Falk Parent Teacher Organization meeting this week and will be available at the West Madison Police Station on Gammon Road after April 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Hammersley Park** – City of Madison planners are disappointed that the GTNA Board did not perceive this small pocket park adjacent to Falk School on Hammersley Road was an appropriate spot for a community garden project. Neighbors have not expressed interest in this project or this location. The City is interested in some development of the park area. GTNA Board felt that placing playground equipment in the space which adjoins Falk School that already has such equipment seems like a weak choice. Moreover the City has expectations that GTNA would cover half the costs for development. Until such time as neighbors express interest in a project at that parcel it will likely remain unimproved beyond its current state. GTNA feels that other areas of the neighborhood, particularly the area of the Greentree Bike Path nearer the existing small shelter would offer a more attractive location for neighborhood recreation that would be more convenient to Greentree residents. Mr. Griffon had previously offered to investigate other potential sites in the GTNA area that might serve as a garden space that provided better soil and light conditions. Members noted that few residents had expressed interest in community garden space.

## Page 2 -- April 7, 2008 GTNA Minutes

Another alternative to consider a splash park at the Hammersley Park site would be quite expensive approaching \$100,000 to \$150,000 of which the GTNA would be asked to raise half the funds for such a project. That seemed unlikely given current budgeting, association bank balance and no demand from any of the GTNA members to establish such a water park, particularly at the Hammersley Park site.

**Meadowood Library** – Ms. Priegel provided a short summary of past discussions about maintaining, expanding or moving the library branch currently at Meadowood Shopping Center. She also shared a survey of library patron use which showed that on a chosen day in March about equal numbers of neighborhood library patrons were borrowing books from the Meadowood, Alicia Ashman, and Sequoia Branch Libraries.

**Neighborhood Watch Meeting** – Ms. Brumm set up a neighborhood watch organizational evening meeting slated for Wednesday, April 9<sup>th</sup> at Falk School. The Madison Police department's Mary Anne Thurber will lead the discussion describing how such watches have become established in other Madison neighborhoods and the kinds of activities undertaken through this community safety/reporting effort. The program may be coordinated with neighborhood police officer Mike Hanson's new initiative to have neighborhood community walks and routes that neighbors would regularly monitor. He is establishing such routes now in the Orchard Ridge and Prairie Hills neighborhoods.

**Sidewalk expansion on the north side of Schroeder Road on the 6600 block** – The parcel between the National Wildlife Health Laboratory and Ellis Potter Road on the north side of Schroeder Road is the only parcel along Schroeder Road without a sidewalk. This happened historically because the parcel lies in the Town of Middleton and was not included when the City of Madison installed sidewalks in the neighborhood. Such sidewalks are needed to accommodate pedestrian traffic. Mr. Sperling described safety concerns this winter caused by a combination of a lack of such a sidewalk, poor snowplowing on Schroeder Road and very poor snow removal on the south side of Schroeder Road in that area compounded by a lack of clear sidewalk enforcement by the City of Madison. As a result pedestrians and bus riders were forced to walk in the narrowed Schroeder Road traffic throughout most of the winter. The City consistently failed to provide clear exit space for Metro bus users exiting on Schroeder Road at both Schroeder Court and just past Ellis Potter Road. The City also failed to enforce clear sidewalk rules that should have provided clear crosswalks on Schroeder Road at Saybrook.

**Madison Neighborhood Associations, Inc.** – This association sent an appeal to GTNA seeking financial support to cover the cost of sending representatives from some east side neighborhoods to a Conference of Neighborhood groups to be held in Hampton, Virginia from May 21-24<sup>th</sup>. The GTNA Board did not approve investing in that appeal. No members of our own association were invited to participate in the conference.

**Beltline Plans** – Mr. Youngwood provided a brief summary of his understanding of the role of the Madison Metropolitan Planning Organization in proposing and reviewing transportation plans that affect neighborhood traffic proposals and initiatives forwarded from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation. He has been trying to glean what those plans might mean for the development of beltline interchanges and potential overpasses/underpasses in southwest Madison.

Minutes taken by Larry Sperling