

## **Greentree Neighborhood Association Meeting - Monday, May 5, 2008 - Minutes**

Present: Nancy Priegel, Rick Floyd, Danielle Gale, Earl Gritton, Steve Henningfield, Jeanne Howard, Durrell Ramer, Larry Sperling, Allen Youngwood

**Greentree Fourth of July Picnic** planning – Steve Henningfield reported planning is well underway. Rental equipment (Tent and wash stands) has been ordered from Bucky's Rentals. Ms. Howard will place a notice in the next Greentree Stump seeking volunteers for various picnic duties. She will also place entry forms for the Greentree Gallop and a map of the run/walk route. Spence Smith has volunteered to run the Gallop. The board thanked John LaBreche for his past work organizing the run/walk. Fourth of July GTNA activities start at 8:45 a.m. with the race. A parade from Falk School to the Norman Clayton Park picnic grounds will start at 11 a.m. organized by Ms. Gale. Danielle Gale will also make arrangements for prizes for children decorating their bikes and wagons. Entertainment will be provided by Doug the Jug at a 12:30 performance at Norman Clayton Park. GTNA memberships will also be offered at the picnic for \$7.50 for the remaining year in our biennial membership cycle.

**Garage Sale** – Ms. Priegel reports the annual Greentree garage sale will be held the weekend of May 1-17 and GTNA will sponsor an ad in the weekend Wisconsin State Journal. Fifteen t 16 Greentree neighbors have expressed interest in taking part in the garage sale. A **plant sale** sponsored by the Greentree Garden Club will be held on Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup> from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the **Mitchell residence on Saalsaa Road.**

**Hampshire Place potential development?** – A few neighbors on Suffolk Road reported they had heard that the Canlin property, an undeveloped tract of land south of Hampshire Road between Hampshire and Suffolk might be sold to a developer following the passing of Mrs. Canlin last year. Some Suffolk neighbors wondered if such development had been proposed and whether that might mean that Hampshire might be developed as a through street connecting Schroeder Road to Suffolk. GTNA Board will ask who might know the Canlin family well enough to ask about potential plans for these parcels. Queries to our city alderman remain unanswered after two weeks time. Inquiries to the City of Madison planning department and city engineering office revealed that no such development proposals have been received. The parcels are currently considered a part of the Town of Madison rather than zoned in the City of Madison

City of Madison engineer Kristy Bachman had no knowledge of any requests or proposed development plans for the parcels. GTNA will send the City formal notice that should any development plans or requests for permits be received that GTNA would like to be notified so that neighbors could be apprised and would be notified of opportunities to review and comment on proposals for providing roads, utilities and other publicly sponsored amenities. Ms. Priegel will also contact the Town of Madison Clerk's office to determine how those parcels are currently zoned

GTNA also heard that another Hampshire neighbor living near the current dead end of developed parcels also owned one of the undeveloped parcels and was not inclined to develop that property. This too was unsubstantiated.

**Treasurer's Report** -- Mr. Youngwood reports that GTNA has a balance of \$2,800 in its checking account and he just renewed a one-year CD for \$4,634 at 2.1% interest, Another GTNA CD matures in October and will likely be renewed barring unanticipated expenditures.

**Neighborhood sign needs repair** – The neighborhood sign installed in the median near the intersection of Whitney Way on Piping Rock Road is showing signs of wear and cracking. Mr. Floyd, who provides concrete services on railroad abutments and bridges professionally, will inspect the sign and recommend a corrective course of action, perhaps affecting the repair.

**Tennis court repairs** – The tennis courts on the south (Piping Rock) end of Norman Clayton Park are slated for repair by the City of Madison. Contractors removed the chain link fencing around the courts a few weeks ago. As GTNA has received no timetable for the repairs, Ms. Priegel will contact the city's parks department to ascertain the repair schedule.

**Hammersley Park improvements** –The City of Madison Planning Department maintains an interest in encouraging GTNA to fund development of Hammersley Park adjoining Hammersley Road near the Brookwood Road intersection. Few GTNA neighbors live near the park, none have expressed interest in developing the parcel and it is not viewed as

important recreational space for Greentree neighbors given existing playgrounds, open space and ball fields on the adjoining Falk Elementary School parcels. In the past Hammersley Park had been sporadically flooded in winter for use as an ice skating rink, but this has not happened for several years. Currently the small wooded parcel is overgrown with brush including invasive species. Since the park is primarily used sporadically as a cut through for elementary students walking to Falk, GTNA's primary interest in the parcel is clearing brush to maintain a walking path. The City of Madison is encouraging the neighborhood association to seek Community Block Grant funding matched with funds from the neighborhood association to develop the park into recreational space for residents across the street in homes and rental unit nearer the park. Given that this area is outside the Greentree Association boundaries, that GTNA members have not expressed interest in this parcel and that recreational areas in the nearby Falk are deemed adequate for the area, the GTNA Board sees no compelling reason to ask GTNA neighbors to support further park development at this time at Hammersley Park. Neither was their neighborhood interest in developing this parcel as a community garden. GTNA Board members observe that thick brush and rather dense shade in the park make it an unlikely spot for a community garden and, further, neighbors have not expressed sustained interest in sponsoring community gardens in the Greentree neighborhood.

The City of Madison Planning Department has said that the brush-clearing GTNA seeks cannot be funded with Community Block Grant funds that can only be sought for capital improvements. The GTNA Board authorized Mr. Ramer (who represents us at meetings on this matter) to ask if block grant funds might be used to renovate the stairs used as a thoroughfare for children traveling to Falk School from Hammersley Road. The stairs need repair and would benefit from lighting.

Mr. Gritton also offered to help organize a neighborhood work crew to help with shrubbery removal at Hammersley Park if the city were interested in undertaking such a cooperative project with GTNA neighbors.

**Project Home** -- The City of Madison has a grant program to subsidize safety improvements like better lighting, locks and security measures to low-income home owners and landlords of properties rented to low-income households. Application blanks are available to Greentree neighbors through the city planning office.

**Gas station at the corner of Schroeder Road and Gammon Road** – The Mobil station at the corner is taking small steps to improve safety and reduce the potential for crime at the station which is recognized as a focal point for drug dealing and liquor violations. The outdoor pay phone at the site has been removed, a private security firm has been hired. These steps are in response from neighbors in adjoining rental units to increase surveillance and monitoring of drug activities at this location.

**Basketball program at Falk School** – The social worker at Falk School is working with neighborhood police officer Mike Hanson to develop a summer basketball program to provide activities for area youth. The program is a healthy first step in providing recreational opportunities for children during the school's summer break.

**Neighborhood Watch program** – Erika Brumm and Police specialist Mary Anne Thurber held a meeting to discuss neighborhood watch programs that could be adopted in Greentree. Such steps as improving lighting, landscaping and locks in neighborhood properties were encouraged. A neighborhood website can also provide a means to report and share safety concerns/updates quickly among participating households.

**Small neighborhood picnics** – Some area representatives expressed interest in revitalizing a former practice of holding smaller neighborhood picnics at the pocket parks in Greentree to encourage neighbors to meet each other at least once during the summer. The board will ask if such get-togethers need to secure permits to light grills or have beer at city parks for such get-togethers.

The meeting adjourned just before 9 p.m. Minutes taken by Larry Sperling