

## Greentree Neighborhood Association - October 6, 2008 meeting - Falk School

**Attending:** Nancy Priegel, Erica Brunn, Rick Floyd, Earl Gritton, Steve Henningfield, Durrell Ramer, Larry Sperling, and Allen Youngblood.

**Treasurer's Report** -- Mr. Youngblood reports approximately \$1,050 in the GTNA checking account. A Certificate of Deposit that matured October 3<sup>rd</sup> has appreciated to approximately \$3,200 and will be invested at M&I Bank for a 13-month term (APR 4%). A second CD matures in April 2009 and GTNA needs will be assessed at that time.

**Park Benches** – Kay and Wally Coombs of Suffolk Road offered to underwrite \$300 of the cost to place a bench in Sherwood Forest Park with a memorial plaque honoring their son, Andy. Ms. Priegel learned that bench installation costs approximately \$1415 -- \$738 for the bench, \$352 for a concrete base, \$125 for installation and \$200 for a small plaque. City funds would cover approximately \$500 toward the purchase and installation price through the People for Parks program. The GTNA Board discussed, and then authorized spending \$615 toward this park improvement. Ms. Priegel, Mr. Sperling and other board members will meet with the Coombs family to select a location for bench placement and discuss this with the city before submitting a check. Laura Whitmore, City of Madison Parks County Relations Coordinator provided the cost estimate and indicates installation might take six weeks. Given hard frost dates and the need to pour before the ground freezes hard, the project might have to await a spring thaw. GTNA Board members will plan a meeting with the Coombs family at the park next week to thank them for their offer and discuss potential locations that will be shared with the city before the bench is ordered.

**Halloween Bonfire** – Planning is underway. Permission from the Parks Department and a permit from the Fire Department have been procured. Many board members have volunteered themselves and their family to help run this event. A short discussion reviewed outstanding needs for the event. Thanks to those who have volunteered to provide firewood, build and staff the fire, and either make or serve cocoa.

**Winter Neighborhood Party** – Mr. Floyd discussed possible locations and activities for the February adult get-together. He will visit locales and get cost estimates. The board discussed potential dates and days of the week for the annual event. We may seek a location where people can merely get together rather than set up a formal activity.

**Santa Visits** – Will be discussed at November meeting.

**Request for neighborhood assessment from newspaper columnist David Blaska** – Ms. Priegel described questions about neighborhood issues posed by newspaper columnist David Blaska. Board members reviewed some potential topics and crafted the outline of a response that Ms. Priegel completed shortly after the meeting.

**Neighborhood Watch** – Attendance at Greentree watch walks was a bit weak (four people at July 30 walk) and walks through our neighborhood were suspended, though groups and meetings continue. October 15 and November 19 meetings are planned at the Falk School library. Safety at our neighborhood parks seems to be a bit better as there are more activities in the summer. A new Parks Watch program starting up with the city's new Parks Director will be incorporated into the Neighborhood Watch program. Our main contact in Greentree will remain neighborhood police officer Michael Hanson.

A discussion ensued following a series of e-mails distributed among neighborhood association boards about continued incidents on Mayhill Road off Prairie Road. The area is a connector between groups of multi-family section 8 housing that have had some continuing difficulties. We discussed the nature and distribution of section 8 housing in Madison, concerns with absentee landlords, legal inability to deny rentals to the few people known to have chronic bad behavior and so forth. The Westside police precinct managers had forwarded opinions on how to potentially curb violence in the area. It became clear that the regulations and legal rights in such housing issues are not well understood and individual tenant rights issues make resolving neighborhood issues challenging.

**Submitted by Larry Sperling, Secretary.**