

Minutes of the Greentree Neighborhood Association
Monday, November 3, 2008
Falk Elementary School, Room 101

Board Members Attending: Rick Floyd, Danielle Gale, Earl Gritton, Steve Henningfield, Nancy Priegel, Durrell Ramer, Larry Sperling, Allen Youngwood

Deadline for articles for the next Greentree Stump newsletter is November 15th. The Board will provide a contact for Jeanne Howard for the Jefferson PTO to see if they have items for the Stump given that many neighborhood children now attend Jefferson as well as Toki Middle School.

Treasurer's Report – Mr. Youngwood reports the GTNA checking account has a balance of \$1,112.20. GTNA also has invested two Certificates of Deposit. One that matured in early October valued at approximately \$2,500 was invested for 13 months and will earn 4% Annual Percentage Rate maturation date, Nov. 7, 2009. The second Certificate of Deposit of \$4,600 plus interest matures in April. The Board will assess if it should be renewed in part or in its entirety next April.

Mr. Youngwood reported that a check for GTNA's share of a bench installation at Sherwood Forest Park had been forwarded to appropriate City of Madison parks accounts but had not been cashed.

Halloween Bonfire – Mr. Sperling reported the annual Halloween Bonfire at Norman Clayton Park and associated hot chocolate party went well thanks to plenty of volunteers, fine weather and the fact that the event fell on a Friday evening this year. Fire builders, wood donators and those helping with cocoa/flashlight distribution were all formally thanked for their efforts and an article submitted for the next Greentree Stump.

Roller Skating Party at Fast Forward – A neighborhood event, roller skating during the October school break that had been held annually in previous years, was not held this year. It was previously organized in recent years by Denise Clearwood, who subsequently moved from the GTNA area. Ms. Clearwood had continued to organize the event under the auspices of the Girl Scouts but discovered waning interest this year. If a new volunteer steps forward, the event may return, but there is clearly a lack of concerted interest among elementary students in Greentree for the event. The committee will consider asking another neighborhood parent if she is interested in sponsoring a similar skating party in February as she is an active scout leader. Fast Forward indicated neighborhoods need to ensure that at least 75 children will attend in order to qualify for the special rate of \$7 or \$7.50 per person for an evening of skating including roller skate rental. We will ask if the Girl Scouts want to try and organize a skating night for February 27th, the next time there is a teacher's convention for which schools will be closed the next day.

Greentree adult party - Mr. Floyd will start the planning process and report at our December meeting. It appears neighbors would prefer a chance to get together and talk without an activity as was planned in recent years (indoor miniature golf or a bucket of balls for the heated driving range).

Santa visits – Nancy Godfrey has agreed to coordinate this program again for early December.

Park benches –A site was selected and marked to place a new bench in Sherwood Forest neighborhood Park. The Coombs family and GTNA President Nancy Priegel met with City of Madison Parks Planner Bill Bauer to mark the site. The installation may be done before freeze-up this year or may have to wait for spring.

Neighborhood interest in similar memorial benches or plantings was discussed; Ms. Priegel learned that neighborhood trees and shrubs can be installed on a matching basis with some grant money from the city to matching neighborhood fund-raising -- \$180 for each larger tree and \$87.50 for smaller understory trees like redbuds or dogwoods. The City prefers to place such landscaping without memorials as these plaques and

markers have to be placed and checked so they are not an obstacle for grass mowing crews. The board discussed the circumstances under which memorial markers on benches or near plantings would be appropriate. Mr. Ramer will draft ideas for a board policy on such memorials that will be reviewed and discussed at the December meeting

Madison Metro Routing – Ms. Gale shared frustrations with changes in bus routing and service to the Greentree Neighborhood after traditional commuting hours. Bus service after 6 p.m. skirts the neighborhood until after the buses have gone through the Raymond Road area and only comes through Greentree on the return loop. She will inquire with Madison Metro management if the routing is a change and how it reflects ridership usage/demand.

West Beltline transportation notes – No new news to report. Mr. Youngwood will ask for an update given known timetables for projects

Property at the south end of Hampshire Road – Neighbors had previously expressed concern that property at the end of Hampshire Road might be sold, developed and a through street connector to Sunridge considered. It appears this will not happen for the foreseeable future as the parcels have been sold to a family member of the previous owner who has no development plans. The incident sparked a short discussion of development history in the Greentree area. Ms. Priegel noted that early records from Greentree Neighborhood Association are on file and available through the Wisconsin Historical Society archives.

NEW BUSINESS

Finishing sidewalk on Schroeder Road – The City of Madison has verbally committed to complete paving the small segment of sidewalk on the north side of Schroeder Road just west of the USGS wildlife lab. The City committed to complete the project before winter. This is the only unpaved portion of sidewalk along Schroeder between Whitney Way and Gammon Road. The paving is needed to provide safe routes for pedestrians, particularly in winter, as they travel home, walk to bus stops, travel to local businesses and seek safe passage in winter. Last winter with heavy snows and repeatedly poor shoveling on portions of the south side of Schroeder Road pedestrians had no safe place to walk and were forced to walk along the edge of Schroeder Road along shoveled portions right next to cars. This was quite dangerous, especially for those pushing baby strollers.

Community Development Block Grant spending – City planners notified the board that block grant funds designated to help low-income renters afford down payments to purchase homes were not attracting potential home buyers due to an inability to secure mortgages. The city had proposed expanding the area where these funds could be used to include the Balsam, Russet and Park Ridge areas. The city also posed the notion of using these funds to help support a neighborhood center at Meadowood Shopping Center as this project funding and management are not progressing according to the timetable forwarded last August at neighborhood meetings. Another option of using the funds to help share costs for paving the parking lot at Wisconsin Youth Company. That idea received very tepid response from the board. Board members asked if the funds could be used for Habitat for Humanity projects or for job placement workshops. Mr. Ramer stated that CDBG funds had to be used for capital improvements.

A short discussion of dealing with neighborhood noise complaints ended the meeting. The board feels these are best solved among the affected neighbors and it did not seem like a larger issue that ought to engage board response. The meeting was adjourned about 8:20.

Minutes submitted by Secretary Larry Sperling.