

Greentree Neighborhood Association Meeting
Monday, January 5, 2009, Falk Elementary School, Room 110

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

Treasurer's Report – Mr. Youngwood reports the GTNA checking account balance is approximately \$440. Current funds are sufficient to cover the printing and mailing cost of the February-March Stump newsletter. In April, one of the GTNA Certificates of Deposit matures and can be tapped for some of our basic funding needs. A construction company that had agreed to help sponsor the Greentree Gallop last July and took out an advertisement in the Stump still has not paid its bills. It is unclear at this point if GTNA will recoup any of this money.

Adult Party – An annual GTNA event, a party for adults to get together has been restructured this year. The party will be held Sunday, February 8th at Babes Restaurant on Schroeder Road at the time of a UW-Madison vs. Penn State basketball game. Neighbors are asked to commit to come and will pay for their food off the menu. Mr. Floyd will seek an advance head count to provide an estimate for Babes to arrange the space.

Roller Skating Party for Children -- The annual roller skating party for late February may be dropped due to declining interest and no volunteers among the association to organize the event. Attendance has dropped considerably in past years as children of association members are aging and children of younger members are not in the habit of attending this event. Fast Forward Skating Rink wanted a guarantee of 75 children attending the event to justify the discount offered in the past to party attendees. The party will not be held this year and will only be revitalized if Greentree members step forward who have a sustained interest in the event. The GTNA Board will reassess next fall into winter.

Outdoor Ice Skating Rinks An impromptu discussion of outdoor neighborhood skating rinks ensued. The City of Madison formerly flooded rinks in some neighborhood parks and kept them shoveled. Suck rinks are now a very low priority and given shrinking budgets, may not be maintained into the future. Several rinks in the Greentree Neighborhood have not been flooded and maintained in several years. Mr., Floyd will represent GTNA in a meeting with the City to advocate for sustaining better use of the Elver Park skating rink and hockey rink. Hockey clubs may be able to recruit volunteers to maintain neighborhood rinks if the city is willing to cooperate and can afford to sustain these rinks.

Hammersley Park Garden Project – The City of Madison allocated \$20,000 for renovations to establish a community garden program at Hammersley Park. The first part of the payment (\$12,000) was earmarked for brush removal. Bill Bauer, city parks planner, said that work will be done in late winter and early spring. Water lines at the park are not working and an estimated \$7,999 may be needed to establish working water lines to the gardening area. The current system will have to be either repaired or replaced. Garden coordinator (Larry Luther of the Prairie Hills Neighborhood) has agreed to work on the site but reportedly is not enthusiastic about including a children's program as part of the community garden. That was one of the reasons for choosing this site given it is adjacent to Falk Elementary School and a summer program runs at the school that could offer a garden program if one were developed. Given these rough spots in the program development, it is unclear how the garden project will proceed. GTNA is unaware of any further organizational meetings and has not been notified of any action on the property. GTNA members were told that both the Meadowood and Prairie Hills community gardens still have more available spaces than interest among potential gardeners.

Memorial benches and trees – The Sheahan family had asked the city about the possibility of erecting a memorial bench at Norman Clayton Park for their son, Michael. Reportedly the city responded that the park had enough benches but they would consider memorial tree plantings.

Mr. Sperling will discuss dedicating the Greentree Gallop to Michael Sheahan as a neighbor (Diane Sullivan) agreed to manage the race if it were dedicated to Michael.

Beltline Upgrades -- Highway projects appear to be slowing under state budget shortfalls but Transportation officials believe in infusion of cash from federal incentives to rebuild national infrastructure to put people back to work may mean that some Wisconsin projects will move forward. It's unclear how these developments may affect Beltline projects. The Wisconsin Dept. of Transportation still has not posted or described details of Beltline renovations between Verona Road and High Point Road more than a year after such plans were allegedly produced in draft form. GTNA has an interest in receiving and reviewing those plans and may have to pursue action through our elected state representatives to receive the plan details.

Annexing Elderly Housing into GTNA -- Some residents of housing for the elderly on the north side of Schroeder Road near Struck Road have experienced break-ins, vandalism and theft in their garage. Residents report people entering the private garage areas after residents enter in their cars before the automated doors close. Car break-ins and potential break-ins in storage lockers were reported. A program called Dane County Triad coordinated by Mary Stamstad has funding to help the elderly feel more safe and secure in their homes. City planning offices had suggested that the two complexes consider becoming part of the Greentree Neighborhood Association so that GTNA could advocate on behalf of these elderly residents. It is important to note that residents, themselves, have not expressed interest in joining GTNA, only the city planners have suggested this as a potential lobbying force. Currently these properties are outside of Greentree and not covered by the association or any neighborhood group.

Similarly, a woman living outside of the Greentree area in the Willows apartment wanted to join the association as a way for her family to meet others in the neighborhood. She was told her family certainly can attend neighborhood events and pay to receive the neighborhood newsletter as a means of staying apprised of neighborhood events. Our bylaws do not currently provide provisions for offering memberships to people outside of the formal neighborhood boundaries.

Southwest Madison Plan – On November 6, 2008, the City of Madison Common Council approved \$15,000 to start renovating the vacant Jacobson's Meat Market site in the Meadowood Shopping Center into a community center. The School Board and Madison School and Community Recreation program also received approval to get involved in managing the center during its first year.

Support for City takeover and redevelopment of properties on Theresa Terrace – Ms. Priegel reports that the head of the Prairie Hills Neighborhood Association, Nicky Morris, has expressed interest in having the City of Madison take over and redevelop some troubled rental properties on Theresa Terrace much as was done in Allied Drive. To the knowledge of GTNA Board members, the city has both responded to the proposal and certainly has not made a commitment to any such project.

A request for a donation from GTNA to a Safe Communities program was denied before the meeting adjourned.

Minutes taken by Secretary Larry Sperling.