

Greentree Neighborhood Association
May 4, 2009 Meeting
Falk Elementary School, 7 p.m.

In attendance: Rick Floyd, Earl Gritton, Steve Henningfield, Chuck Hime, Jeanne Howard, Linda Johnson, Nancy Priegel, Durrell Ramer, Larry Sperling, Allen Youngwood

Membership Drive – Enrollment and Renewals -- Two-year GTNA membership Drive starts this June with membership forms included in the June Stump that will be delivered to all addresses in the Greentree Neighborhood. Two-year memberships will remain the same price, \$15. Completed forms can be mailed in to Ms. Johnson or dropped off at the membership table at the Fourth of July picnic. The board discussed minor revisions to the excellent form developed by Ms. Johnson. The back of the membership form will give potential members the opportunity to volunteer for service to the annual GTNA events. GTNA currently has 329 member families.

Advertising in the directory and newsletter -- Ms. Johnson also led a discussion of attracting potential advertisers for the Stump and the biannual membership directory. Ms. Johnson and Mr. Sperling will work on a letter to potential advertisers and businesses soliciting ads for both the newsletter and the directory.

Summer help ads – Ms. Johnson will forward an e-mail to GTNA families offering the opportunity to place short classified ads in the Stump for youngsters willing to take on either summer or year-round work providing neighborhood services such as babysitting, yard work, sinter shoveling, lawn mowing and pet care.

Operational calendar – To better anticipate deadlines and to set a schedule for soliciting volunteers for various GTNA events, Mr. Hime suggested establishing an operational calendar for the year. The chair persons of each event should review those dates and forward an e-mail to Ms. Priegel with those dates.

Treasurer's Report -- Mr. Youngwood transferred \$3,000 into the GTNA checking account to cover the costs of our biggest event of the year, the Fourth of July picnic and small anticipated bills. GTNA maintains two Certificates of Deposit whose terms mature in 13-month contracts.

Fourth of July picnic – Mr. Henningfield reminded the Board that the next Stump is a critical tool for soliciting volunteer help to staff the annual picnic. The picnic will include games run by Ms. Floyd and Mr. Henningfield will book some entertainment. The picnic may start 15 minutes early to accommodate availability of police and fire personnel who have commitments to lead parades at other neighborhood picnics as well. The Board also had a short discussion about the Greentree Gallop run and walk that will honor former Greentree neighbor Michael Sheehan who died in an auto accident last year.

West Beltline traffic plans – Mr. Youngwood reports that GTNA has not received responses from Mr. Larry Barta of the Wisconsin Dept. of Transportation to questions posed to him two months ago from

GTNA. The Board is tracking DOT plans as the agency is notably uncommunicative about potential future plans for entrance ramps, exit ramps, crossings and expansions of the West Beltline between Verona Road and Mineral Point Road. DOT continues to make its plans but has little intention of sharing potential options with neighborhoods through which these potential changes in the roadway pass. Nor does DOT solicit meaningful neighborhood review or reaction to these plans. Public participation and communication of these potential actions remains minimal and is done poorly at the last minute long after plans have been made.

GTNA Board will send letters and e-mails to DOT administrators and project manager overseers expressing our continued interest in giving neighbors the opportunities to review potential options at a time when plans could still reflect and incorporate public recommendations. DOT's history has been to make its decisions internally, bury its options in obfuscating language in documents that are buried in appendices to reports published online, and then present information to the public after the agency has already committed to a course of action. DOT has a history of clearly not engaging in meaningful public participation in its beltline projects.

The latest series of buried plans in Appendix C to the Phase 1 study appear to once again change the design of traffic patterns affecting the Greentree neighborhood. It appears that revisions to the Watts Road have been dropped and it is possible that the bike underpass might be expanded to allow car traffic from Odana Road to pass under the Beltline providing access to Schroeder Road. An underpass at Forward Drive is another possibility alluded to in the plans but not specified.

The GTNA will send letters to the Deputy Division Administrator of the appropriate division at the Wisconsin Dept. of Transportation and will also contact the District DOT office in La Crosse that oversees the Dane County roads areas to again let the agency know that Greentree neighbors want advance notice and specifics of potential traffic planning affecting our neighborhood. An article on the potential developments will also be prepared for publication in the June Stump to alert neighbors that traffic intersections, overpasses and underpasses affecting our neighborhood are still being considered.

Meeting adjourned about 8:22 p.m. Minutes taken by Larry Sperling, secretary.