

Greentree Neighborhood Association (GTNA)
September 14, 2009 meeting – 7 p.m.
Falk Elementary School Room 135B

PRESENT: Nancy Priegel, Rick Floyd, Earl Gritton, Steve Henningfield, Chuck Kime, Durrell Ramer, Larry Sperling, Allen Youngwood.

Also attending: Linda Johnson, Dave Keller, Don Severson, Dave Glomp

Membership – Ms. Johnson reports approximately 202 members have enrolled or renewed membership in GTNA during our on-going membership drive. Last year a total of approximately 330 of the estimated 700 families in Greentree had taken out memberships. A special mailing the first week of October will remind past members who have not renewed that it is past time to send in their membership renewals and a special mailing to those who have not enrolled will offer one more opportunity to join before these residents will miss the opportunity to receive the next issue of the neighborhood newsletter the Greentree Stump. Nancy Priegel and Larry Sperling will help compile these mailings.

Article deadline for the October Stump is this Friday, Sept. 17. Send articles to STUMP@GTNA.org.

Santa visits – An article offering the chance to sign up for visits will be included in the October Stump. Ms. Godfrey will be contacted about visit plans and an elf in training.

SWANS presentation – Greentree neighbor Dave Keller and SWANS representatives Don Severson and Dave Glomp addressed the Board. Mr. Keller expressed concern about vandalism on his street (Winston Dr.) and described three acts of vandalism that he said had been committed in a three-week period – a chair thrown against a home doing damage, a large planter broken on someone's porch and a broken window. Keller also said his car and house had been broken into during the last year and neighbors on either side of his property had also been burglarized in the last year. He expressed concerns about public safety. Keller said he had filed police reports on the incidents on his property but was not aware or engaged with the Neighborhood Watch group in Greentree.

Severson and Glomp representing the nascent Southwest Area Neighborhoods Association (SWANS) explained their group is composed of individuals who have expressed an interest in discussing and working on actions average citizens can take to supplement activities by elected officials and police to encourage safety and better behavior in southwest Madison neighborhoods. They described some of their early organizing meetings and the development of a Code of Conduct and neighborhood Bill of Rights that they had distributed for public review at a meeting three weeks ago at Falk School. The Board was asked if it would consider sending notices of future SWANS meetings to Greentree members for their consideration. The Board has hesitated to do so because we do not endorse social, political and advocacy groups. Ms. Priegel subsequently agreed to ask GTNA members via her Stump column if they wanted notification of meetings that were not sponsored by schools or public officials via the Greentree listserv. The SWANS group was also made aware that Greentree has an active neighborhood watch group in place for those who want to join that effort. Mr. Glomp said that one reason SWANS had formed was to answer the call in the Southwest Area Plan that neighborhood associations should develop means to facilitate get-togethers of the volunteer officers from the regional neighborhood associations. Secondly, they were

answering a challenge from the mayor that police and elected officials could not ensure or contain public safety on their own but needed the assistance of involved neighbors to help develop solutions to bolster public safety and public support for safe neighborhoods, They described the Code of Conduct and Citizens Bill of Rights as a starting point for discussion which some might approve or amend. They encouraged those who chose to do so to get involved with their process. Glomp also said SWANS was going to meet with the group Communities and Neighbors Unite on Tuesday, Sept. 16th to continue a discussion. Mr. Kime said there is a perception that neighborhood groups felt that support for SWANS had been co-opted and that some of the literature implied that neighborhood associations had endorsed the proposed policies forwarded by SWANS. Glomp and Severson said the aim of SWANS was to find area neighbors who wanted to get together for discussions, not assume that neighborhood associations necessarily approved or endorsed their stances. The two gentlemen provided contact information and asked GTNA to let members know about future SWANS meetings.

Treasurer's report – Mr. Youngwood reported a balance of slightly under \$5,000 in the GTNA checking account and roughly \$300 in new membership funds. A GTNA Certificate of Deposit valued at \$2,500 matures in November and he will recommend a course of action for those funds once upcoming interest rates are known. Mr. Youngwood reported that the Fourth of July celebration lost approximately \$34.75, which is a very modest fee and the Greentree Gallop run/walk brought in \$1,964 before expenses were deducted. Race participants and supporters also provided generous donations to the neighborhood food pantry at Good Shepherd Church.

Halloween Bonfire – Mr. Sperling has requested approval from the City Parks Department to use portions of Norman Clayton Park for the community bonfire scheduled for Saturday, October 31st. He has also requested the required burning permit from the City Fire Department. Ms. Priegel said her neighbor, Dave Evans, had volunteered to provide wood for the bonfire. Sperling said he would contact Mr. Evans and affirm that the Johnson, Riese and Gritton families that had helped supply wood, set and tend the bonfire would be available again this year. Ms. Christine Riese has also secured a supply of flashlights from Ray-O-Vac (Spectrum Brands) to distribute to Greentree youngsters on Halloween evening at the bonfire. Sperling will also secure coffee urn loans, purchase supplies and ask for volunteers to make and serve cocoa during the two-hour event.

Trees for Norman Clayton Park – Ms. Priegel reported that two more trees – a maple and a redbud – would be planted at Norman Clayton Park.

Tennis court vandalism – Mr. Sperling recapped requests to improve signage on the tennis courts at Norman Clayton Park to assist police efforts in dissuading vandalism and damage to the court from bicycling and skateboarding use.

Board vacancy in area 11 – Ms. Priegel mentioned the names of two potential volunteers to represent Area 11 on the Board. She will contact both to see if they might have such an interest.

Crime statistics – Mr. Kime distributed and discussed crime statistics in southwest Madison neighborhoods that had been compiled and shared by Lt. Patterson of the West Madison Police Headquarters at a quarterly neighborhood meeting. He will ask Lt. Patterson for a more detailed description and analysis of patterns that are strictly within the Greentree neighborhood for comparison with the surrounding area to augment the report that the board noted and discussed.

West Beltline highway/transportation proposals -- Mr. Youngwood described conversations he had held with two representatives of the West Madison Little League who were unaware that Department of Transportation planners were considering potential Beltline crossings at Forward Drive. WMLL Executive Director Bill Battista and the president of the league expressed concern about potential effects on parking, safe crossing of the street for WMLL families and the potential loss of a season if construction work affected the Forward Drive area. Mr. Youngwood will try to get City of Madison road planners, Channel 15 property managers and the WMLL program to start talking with the Dept. of Transportation planning group. Several potential areas of questions for DOT were discussed. DOT is currently conducting planning studies and will next receive recommendations from their consultant. Thereafter DOT will decide how many Beltline crossings to pursue and where. At some point the agency must decide on an environmental clearance document. DOT might seek mitigation steps with GTNA or other affected parties as part of this process. For now there are still a number of issues regarding Purpose and Need along with alternatives to crossings. Youngwood believes that traffic studies conducted in 2001 and projected through 2030 are outdated in that they fail to account for the effects of recession and higher gasoline prices in the last few years. The Board then discussed strategies for planning a meeting with Mr. Barta of DOT.

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Meeting adjourned about 9:17 p.m.
Minutes taken by Larry Sperling