

Greentree Neighborhood Association Meeting
November 2, 2009, 7:00 p.m.
Falk Elementary School, Room 103

Attending: Rick Floyd, Earl Gritton, Steve Henningfield, Linda Johnson, Chuck Kime, Nancy Priegel, Durrell Ramer, Larry Sperling, Allen Youngwood

Treasurer's Report – Checking: \$3242.95 (more memberships to come) CD #5: \$2500.00 (plus interest) comes due 3-14-10 CD #6: \$5108.87; Comes due 10-10-10.

Biennial Budget – Ms. Priegel presented a proposed biennial budget for GTNA for the period September 2009 – August 2011. (Attached). Major expenses in the proposed \$7.650 in expenditures for the biennium include printing and mailing costs for the neighborhood newsletter (4,500), printing our biennial neighborhood directory (4800), net expenses for the Fourth of July picnic (\$1,200) and the Halloween Bonfire (\$400). Major sources of revenue include membership fees and advertising in the newsletter and directory. Ms. Johnson has received ads for the directory from the neighborhood businesses of Vitense Golfland, Madison Gas & Electric, Ruffin It pet health spa and Perez Auto Repair. Thanks to these neighborhood merchants and please frequent these GTNA supporters.

Stump newsletter – Ms. Johnson has resumed her former post as editor of the newsletter. Thanks to Jeanne Howard for her two-year stint helping produce the Stump. Ms. Johnson gave a run-through of proposed pieces for the next edition. Article deadline is Friday, November 6th.

GTNA membership – Ms. Johnson reports we have approximately 240 member families in the association, down considerably from past averages of about 350 families of the 650-700 families living in the Greentree neighborhood. As a consequence area representatives will be asked to canvass their neighborhoods for potential new members between now and the end of November.

Halloween Bonfire – The bonfire held Saturday, October 31st was successful thanks to generous assistance from Greentree neighbors, dry weather and relatively light winds. Mr. Sperling will prepare an article for The Stump thanking those who donated wood, split and hauled wood, set and tended the fire, made and served cocoa. Special thanks to Christine and Ron Riese who arranged a donation of flashlights to distribute to children courtesy of Spectrum Brands. The Rieses also purchased batteries for the flashlights. Battery costs will be reimbursed by GTNA.

West Beltline Upgrades and Crossing Alternatives – Mr. Youngwood led a discussion summarizing presentations from the State Department of Transportation (WISDOT) about potential traffic crossings from the West Beltline under consideration adjoining the Greentree neighborhood. Our association response to the presentations will ask for more complete explanations of the purpose and need for these crossings given projected traffic volumes and DOT estimates that crossings will not substantially affect traffic counts on the beltline itself. Second, we will reiterate our concerns over neighborhood cut-through traffic from the estimates provided by WISDOT. Potential impacts from one of the alternatives that would significantly increase traffic on Woodington Way in front of Falk Elementary School and on Chapel Hill Road are particular concerns. Third, we will explore if proposed routes pose greater consequences for minority families living along potential crossing routes that might raise environmental justice issues. Finally, GTNA questions why the Blackwolf and Tramore Crossing alternatives were dismissed as too expensive and too disruptive to the southwest side of Madison when the three

potential crossings nearer the Greentree neighborhood traverse much more developed areas than either the Blackwolf or Tramore crossing areas.

Greentree Neighborhood Safety Indicators – Mr. Kime discussed the safety indicators report prepared by the City of Madison. He noted the confusion created in the report by defining a Greentree Planning District that has significantly different boundaries than the Greentree neighborhood and includes three areas that would be considered concentrated pockets of poverty along Schroeder Road, the Balsam-Russett neighborhood and portions of the Meadowood neighborhood. Significant portions of the “Greentree Planning Area” are not even within organized neighborhoods. This makes crime areas labeled as “Greentree” artificially high in terms of call for police services, though Mr. Kime noted that reports clearly show rising numbers of crimes like burglary and theft as well as auto issues. Clearly there are problems in how the properties within each neighborhood were evaluated since only four homes in the Greentree area were considered as homes of “poverty,” which the GTNA board estimates constitutes severe underreporting. Mr. Kime noted that such reports are not especially useful or adept at identifying neighborhoods that are beginning to dip or tip toward poverty issues or other attributes that would be viewed as negative changes. A Youth Opportunities Index in the report also makes the Greentree area look like an area with few opportunities for youth. Part of the explanation is that the formal Greentree area is almost all residential properties and the only building in the neighborhood that is public or private and might host youth programs is Falk Elementary School.

Mr. Kime and Ms. Priegel will prepare some questions about the plan in time for a January meeting on the report.

Search for an Area 11 representative on the Board – Ms. Priegel reports she has not had a response from the resident of Area 11 she had tried to interest in serving on the GTNA board. The search continues.

Plans for annual Greentree meeting – We will make tentative plans to hold our annual meeting for the neighborhood in April and will try to reserve space at the Meadowood Community Center space as we did last year.

Search for new neighborhood watch leader – Mr. Kime indicated it was unlikely Ms. Barbara Erdtman’s schedule allow her to continue leading the neighborhood watch program and a new leader for this voluntary program will be solicited.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.