

**Greentree Neighborhood Association**  
**March 1, 2010 Meeting**  
**Falk School, Library Media Center**

Present: Rick Floyd, Earl Gritton, Steve Henningfield, Linda Johnson Chuck Kime, Jane Sarafiny. Larry Sperling, Allen Youngwood.

The Board welcomed Jane Sarafiny, new representative for area 8.

**Neighborhood Watch** – Mr. Kime explained that members of the Neighborhood Watch listserv needed to sign up for a free Yahoo address to access all attachments and links available through service.

Mr. Kime was encouraged that 16 landlords who own apartments in the Balsam Road area are trying to get others to vet prospective tenants. He also reported on a **safety meeting** that he and Ms. Priegel had attended. Highlights from that meeting follow:

The consensus among police officials in attendance, including Captain Jay Langfeld of the West District, is that juveniles are causing most of the crime problems in the Balsam, Russett and Hammersley Road areas. The MPD's goal is to hook up juveniles with summer programs at the Wisconsin Youth Company and the Boys and Girls Club. A youth outreach worker is going to be hired to work on getting kids into summer programs. Also a gang prevention program is being conducted at Toki Middle School. In addition a youth court was started for youth who commit offenses such as truancy and shop-lifting.

Police and the city attorney's office are focusing on working with landlords who own properties in the area that are problematic. Police are aware of addresses that are centers of crime or where large parties are held after bar time.

The public health nurse for the southwest area, Kim Neuschel, reported on the area's community gardens and said that the Falk School staff is taking over the children's garden at the Hammersley Park community garden. Also, she and staff are going to plant vegetables in the terraces along Russett Road for use by residents.

George Hanks and staff in City of Madison Building Inspections Unit are doing a **systematic inspection of housing in the Park Ridge area**. Some building owners in the Balsam Road area are preparing a report about conditions in the buildings and recommendations for dealing with them. There are twenty buildings in that area which were built in the 1960's. A discussion was held about using small cap TIF money to fund improvements in the buildings. The mayor seemed favorably inclined to explore this funding option.

**Foreclosures in the Balsam/Russett area**-- Many foreclosed buildings and homes are empty, but still have running water. Fears were expressed that these properties may be vandalized and used by homeless people. Anyone knowing of an empty foreclosed building or house, please notify the police who will notify the water utility and MG&E. Also the house can be sealed.

Ms. Priegel raised an unresolved concern that the city continues to concentrate pockets of poverty in too few small areas. She noted the meteoric rise of needy children at Falk Elementary School. The concentration of so many needy families in small areas leads to unstable neighborhood, neighborhood flight from neighborhood schools and a parent population that is less able to provide as much support for the school population. This situation is exacerbated by difficult economic times.

The mayor is holding a follow-up meeting on April 21st at 4:00 at the Meadowood Community Center followed by a community dinner.

**Treasurer's Report** – The association checking account has a balance of approximately \$3,400 and one of our CDs matures the week of March 15<sup>th</sup>. When it becomes due, the note will be rolled-over for another six months

**Dept of Transportation Beltline update** – Mr. Youngwood will again provide a list of unresolved questions about Beltline crossing correspondences to Mr. Larry Barta of the Dept. of Transportation who is overseeing Beltline renovations and future planning.

**Neighborhood Directory and Stump.** -- Ms. Johnson prepared, completed and mailed the biannual neighborhood directory. She also set the deadline and article assignments for the next issue of the neighborhood newsletter, *The Greentree Stump*. Articles are due by March 10<sup>th</sup>. The Stump will contain pieces about Earth Day clean-up plans, the neighborhood watch program, a solicitation for Fourth of July picnic and Greentree Gallop volunteers, and pieces from elected representatives.

**April 14<sup>th</sup> annual meeting** – Anticipated speakers include our GTNA President, City Alder Jed Sanborn, the newly elected or re-elected Dane County Supervisor,, the public health nurse speaking about community gardening, liaison to the West Madison Police Department and perhaps an update in community gardens. We may also get an update on the Madison Fruit and Nut tree grant and will have an opportunity to solicit volunteers for upcoming Greentree events like the Fourth of July picnic and Halloween bonfire.

Meeting adjourned about 8:20.