

Greentree Neighborhood Association
February 7, 2011 meeting
Falk Elementary School, Room 153

Board Members present: Gary Becker, Rick Floyd, Chuck Kime, Larry Sperling, and Allen Youngwood. Also attending: Betz Pilon

Sunridge Park Planning – Mr. Becker is developing links for Greentree neighbors interested in offering suggestions for improvements at Sunridge Park or interested in taking part in the park planning process can learn about the city’s parks planning process. Some of the improvements neighbors have already asked to have addressed:

- **Drainage at the southeast corner** – Water flow in this corner of the park is towards the basement of the nearest house in an area. Water infiltration and drainage is poor due to heavy clay soils. One possible solution is installing a demonstration project or rain garden in that area of the park so water will infiltrate before reaching the foundation area of the private property.
- **Install landscaping plants** – Some of the plantings on the park perimeter are past their prime, overgrown and leggy. Other “volunteer” plant growth in the park, like some aging wild fruit trees, either need pruning and maintenance or replacing. The northwest corner of the park and the northeast corner of the park have some wild apple trees that need either pruning or replacement.
- **Playground placement** – Some neighbors commenting on the park believe the playground equipment on the northeast corner is a bit close to Piping Rock and suggested the playground equipment might be moved nearer to the Hempstead Road corner of the park. Others like the current playground equipment location but suggest replacing the loose gravel with wood mulch or another substrate that provides a softer, safer landing for children using the equipment.
- **Stage** – Some neighbors asked if a platform could be installed adjoining the playground area to encourage kids to stage plays or to host musical performances.
- **Replace seats on swings** – Neighbors noted that the swing seats need replacing

Other possible improvements mentioned that would require a budget and more of a commitment include installing a drinking water and a restroom facility.

Mr. Becker also noted that there are some memorial plantings in the area and if landscaping projects are proposed for the area that one would have to respect and accommodate these memorial plantings and commemorative markings.

Treasurer’s report –No change to existing accounts. The GTNA checking account has about a \$1,200 balance and \$7,500 in Certificates of Deposit. GTNA received another letter from the Internal Revenue Service advising of an electronic form that GTNA will need to file regularly on a continuing basis to verify and maintain our status our tax status.

Fruit tree project – The board received a note from Ms. Katie Place that a proposed grant application to the city to participate in a project to plant and maintain fruit trees in a portion of the Greentree neighborhood will be suspended at this time. After her work to comply with the

grant application forms, discuss the concept with the GTNA Board, and discuss the concept with the Greentree Gardening Club, Ms. Place visited with neighbors adjoining the proposed planting site just south of the baseball diamond in Greentree Park south of the bicycle path area. Those neighbors objected to the project citing concerns about trespass on their property, disturbing their sightline into the park and increased foot traffic between their yards and Elver Park even though the planting site is on public land. Given opposition, Ms. Place will hold off an application for a planting grant as other sites are sought and considered.

GTNA annual meeting – Our annual meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 7th at 7 p.m. at the Meadowood Community Center in Meadowood Shopping Center on Raymond Road at the Whitney Way intersection. Topics will include an update on neighborhood safety and reporting issues from the Neighborhood Watch Coordinator, a short discussion of the search for places for the fruit tree planting project, a potential introduction of our new neighborhood police officer liaison, reminder of volunteer opportunities in the neighborhood, possible upgrades at Sunridge Park and volunteer sign-up for upcoming events.

Neighborhood safety and outreach – Mr. Kime reported he had correspondence with Mary Stamstad who is starting a safety outreach program for senior citizens living in two senior apartment complexes near the Schroeder Road and Struck Road areas – the Prairie Park and Greentree Glen complexes. Those neighbors are potentially interested in a neighborhood watch program and contacts with the Madison Police Department. They have had some concerns about breaking and entering through the garages of their complexes, poor lighting in the area and a lack of security camera surveillance.

Lawn pesticide use – Ms. Betz Pilon attended the meeting to express interest in writing an article for the Greentree Stump about alternatives to lawn pesticide use. She participates in the Greater Madison Healthy Lawn Team program that stresses nonchemical alternatives to maintaining healthy lawns. Her article would include websites and sources of information for people who want to learn more about these nonchemical alternatives and cultural practices that encourage healthy lawns. Ms. Pilon described some situations where neighboring parcels to her home were sprayed on very windy days where pesticide drift carried chemicals into her home. She expressed concerns about drift, the lack of safety in chemicals widely used on lawns and the fact that few homeowners understand the risks of lawn treatments they are using. She also discussed available sources of information from local writers advocating for nonchemical lawn care alternatives. Ms. Pilon will draft a piece for The Stump. The board is aware that this may generate a response from those using chemical alternatives.

Adult GTNA party – The party is scheduled for Sunday, February 20, 1-4 p.m. at Babes on Schroeder Road. A separate party room has been reserved for our use.

Earth Day cleanup and invasive plant control project – Chuck and Val Kime are planning to oversee an Earth Day project to collect trash at Greentree area public parks and perhaps pull garlic mustard at a portion of Elver Park near McKenna Boulevard. The project would start at 9 a.m. on Saturday, April 23rd. Mr. Kime will explore with the city how garlic mustard should be bagged and marked so the collected weeds are handled properly for disposal at the landfill so it won't be mixed in with city compost. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:50 P.M.