

Minutes: April 2024, DRAFT

SASY Neighborhood Association, Inc.

April 11th, 2024 6:30pm-8:30pm, Goodman Community Center

Upcoming Community Dates:

- April 30th: MNA and SASY Co Hosting Meeting on Amtrak Stations and Route
 - May 5th: Marquette-Atwood Neighborhood Art Walk
 - May 9th: SASY NA May Meeting: 6:30 PM @ Goodman Community Center
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1. Introductions / Quorum

- a. Board members present: Aaron Embury, Betty Chewning, Dan Lenz (arrived after quorum), Davy Mayer, Joe Schubert (taking notes), Megan Williamson, Ryan Koglin, Ray Cruz, Sarah Paske
- b. Board members absent: Doug Johnson (excused), Susan Ramspacher (excused), Ginny Jenkins
- c. Quorum achieved: 6:35
- d. Recap of open seats (Davy):
 - i. Franzo Law resigned shortly before meeting, effective immediately
 - ii. Open seats: Evergreen, Starkweather, 2 at large seats

2. Approval of Minutes from March Meeting

- a. MOTION: Megan
- b. SECOND: Betty
- c. PASSED: Unanimous
- d. Brief discussion around right level of detail for February grant meetings

3. Amendments/Additions to the Agenda

- a. None

4. Madison Parks Dept (Eric Knepp- Parks Superintendent)

- a. Eric Knepp and Ann Friewald from the Madison Parks Department attended to discuss two nearby parks: the Olbrich Nature Play Area and the Olbrich North Plat
- b. Olbrich Park Nature Play Area: First the parks department provided some updates on the project. No in kind donations will be accepted, to control for incoming material timing, quality and quantity. For site cleanup, parks will maintain the site (mow the lawn) until construction begins, but will not put new turf in where the pit is located. Parks explained some of the financial considerations for removing two elements to provide swings. Parks acknowledged they would not have torn down the playground so far from install, if they could do it again, and discussed some of the history of the Midvale

Heights Neighborhood park changes and general resource constraints. Parks then discussed some of the reasons for a nature play area: financial considerations, adding a different type park to the area, benefits to nature play and keeping up with national park trends. After this, the meeting moved to community engagement. Neighbors shared frustrations around the process and discussed the value of the playground and the uniqueness of the park near the lake as something that had drawn people in. Camrock, Monona and other nearby parks were highlighted as particularly good parks. Yogesh gave some context from the county perspective on resources (capital vs operating). This section of the meeting concluded with a discussion of funding. Parks said that if they have anything less than 50k, they'll spend it on this play area and will match funds they are under (if they have \$47k, they'll spend that 3k and another \$3k, so \$53k). The group revisited an earlier conversation where the parks department mentioned they didn't need outside funding, and neighbors can now move forward with an outside fundraising event. Outside fundraising has to go through the Madison Parks Foundation, and another organization. SASY will be this other organization, and reach out to Madison Parks Foundation to see what we need to do. If the neighborhood can raise 5k "now", parks will incorporate the swing in sooner.

- c. Olbrich North Plat: First the parks department gave some context on the site. Notably, it is an open brownfield and the priority is to cap the site, in accordance with the DNR. The first phase of the project is capping (asap), the second phase is the parking lot (5 years) and the last phase is the new amenities (10 years). The parking lot is parks' number 1 priority for the space. After this, the meeting moved to community engagement. Neighbors shared concerns around the environmental and financial cost and the use of space for a parking lot over other uses. Neighbors also shared frustrations with the car-focused approach to transportation. Neighbors asked what analysis was done to decide on a parking lot. Bryant from Garver spoke about Garver's context and the market's needs for parking. The parks department mentioned that other Olbrich parking lots will be removed or shrunk in the future. Yogesh reiterated the need to cap the brownfield. Parks said the next step is for the parks commission to take up the plan, and residents should send their comments there.
- d. The parks section of the meeting concluded with Eric appreciating the "full contact democracy" of a meeting like this, and sharing appreciation for how much residents care about our parks.

5. New business / Community Events

- a. May 5th Marquette Atwood Art Walk

6. Elected Official Updates

- a. Yogesh Chawla (Dane County Supervisor)
 - i. County board going through elections, including for the county board chair and some other roles. Yogesh is chairing the environment, agg, and

natural resource committee where some areas of note are: soil health, urban water quality, stormwater, dredging, legacy sediment removal, moving water through our watershed faster with less contamination. County has purchased 1,300 acres, bought strategically to work right around parks, and places with high potential for absorption. The county has also continued to improve bike infrastructure (e.g. Waucheeta Connector).

7. Committee Updates

- a. Communication (Joe): Meeting to work on the website is Sunday 4/14.
- b. Festivals (Ginny + Megan): Atwoodfest: Working on permitting and other duties previously done by Wil-Mar. Going to have a broader volunteer meeting in April (originally planned for 4/30 but will move due to conflict with the Amtrak meeting). A community member inquired about sustainability and will connect with the organizers after the meeting.
- c. Membership Committee (Davy): The annual meeting was moved to August, giving more time to onboard ahead of AtwoodFest. We'll plan to promote the annual meeting (and 25 years of SASY!) at AtwoodFest. We will reinstate annual dues.
- d. P&D Committee (Davy)
 - i. Update from March meeting. There is a joint SASY-MNA and WI DOT Amtrak meeting on 4/30 to discuss the 6 stations and accompanying routes. City mailed postcard along the train route.
 - ii. Idea Bar and prior issues were discussed: have not had recent issues.
 - iii. Zion church demolition will happen soon, and Sector 67 will visit the site ahead of time to find any usable items.
 - iv. Brain Plate Composting: Davy read the letter SASY would send in support of Brain Plate's Garver composting. Brain Plate attended a recent SASY and P&D Committee meeting. There was a discussion around site location, raised beds, and communications with Garver Feedmill. After the motion was proposed, there was a friendly amendment for Davy to check in with Brain Plate about their communications with Garver and make sure they were reaching out.
 - v. MOTION: Davy
 - vi. SECOND: Joe
 - vii. PASSED:
 - In favor: Aaron Embury, Dan Lenz, Davy Mayer, Joe Schubert, Ryan Koglin, Ray Cruz, Sarah Paske
 - Opposed: Betty Chewning, Megan Williamson

8. Motion to Adjourn

- a. MOTION: Davy
- b. SECOND: Ray
- c. PASSED: Unanimous