

SASYNA and the Madison Budget

What's Up?

The City of Madison divides the budget process into "capital" and "operating" sections. The "capital budget" provides for the acquisition of long-lived assets such as land, buildings and major equipment. The "operating budget" contains items related to salaries, benefits, materials and supplies, purchased services, and short-lived assets such as office equipment. The Mayor, Common Council and City Staff are working on developing the budget for 2014.

Every neighbor can provide input into the process, but it may be useful for SASY to provide input on behalf of the neighborhood association. This input could reflect the neighborhood's priorities and interests. It also could anticipate other work that the neighborhood knows will be coming in future years (for instance, providing resources for corridor or Union Corners planning).

What's Happening?

The budget process is currently gathering input. There are a series of community meetings as well as an innovative social networking tool for gathering that input. That means there is a real opportunity for SASY to have a voice in the priorities for the city budget. The community meetings took place in May of this year, but the social networking tool, called City of Madison IdeaScale, allows individuals and organizations to suggest budget priorities and vote on ideas that other people have submitted.

Currently, the five ideas on IdeaScale that are getting the highest number of votes are:

1. Curbside Composting
2. Connection through Public Transportation
3. Expand Support to Community Centers
4. Help Expand Sector67
5. More affordable housing

As you can see, all five of these would have impacts in the SASY neighborhood.

Should SASY Get Involved?

Every neighbor can get involved, if they are interested, by visiting the City Budget site. An interesting question is: should SASY, as a neighborhood association, get involved? If so, should it be through the social networking site? Or should the neighborhood association seek to engage with our Alderperson and with the Mayor? Or, should this be left to individuals?

One possibility is an Ad Hoc Committee - with a sunset date of when the Approved Budget is voted on - that has the responsibility of proposing SASYNA budget priorities and engaging with the right people to help ensure that the neighborhood's priorities and values are reflected in this year's budget.

Links

Here are some useful links for the 2014 City of Madison Budget process:

The City of Madison Budget Website: <https://www.cityofmadison.com/budget/>

City of Madison IdeaScale: <http://madison.ideascale.com/>

Basics of the Madison Budget: <https://www.cityofmadison.com/budget/faq.cfm>

2013 Operating Budget Expenditures by Function & Department

