

Plan B Neighborhood Advisory Group Minutes

Minutes from November 10, 2009 Meeting

Present: Steve Gallo, Tracy Gallo, Katherine Plominski, Dick Guyot, Rico Sabatini, Corey Gresen, John Rolfsmeyer, Chuck Chvala, Scott Thornton, Laurie Wermter

Meeting began at 4:00 p.m. with introductions.

Parking Issues

Scott shared observations on parking from Saturday night/ Sunday morning. Between 12:30 and 1:00 a.m. Sunday morning observed 5 empty spaces on the street between the club and Brearly and numerous spaces on the next block of Williamson Street. He's not sure there is a parking problem.

Laurie said that her co-op on the 800 block of Williamson has off-street parking so they have not been affected.

Rico said that they have been in negotiations for 10 parking spaces behind them (Warrens property) for \$500/month, but they have not entered into a contract. They have 60 parking spaces they could use at the Gateway Mall.

John said that he was willing to wait and see if parking becomes a problem in the future.

Chuck would like to expand the parking lot at 924 Williamson to use the current green space. He thinks that making the operators spend \$6,000/year on parking (Warrens option) is not reasonable considering he has room to expand the parking. It makes sense to have parking on site. What would happen if other businesses start restricting their lots so people don't have that option for off-street parking like at the Third Lake Ridge shopping center?

Dick said that the green space is important to the neighborhood. It would be a negative change to the neighborhood without it.

Chuck emphasized that it should be up to the property owner.

Scott says the neighborhood would not support that. Given the option for more parking versus green space the neighborhood would support green space.

Progress since Last Meeting

Sound

Tracy said that her main concern was the sound and specifically the bass. She can sometimes feel it in her stomach. She lives on Jenifer Street. She said that it was much better this past Saturday night and was able to sleep.

Plan B Neighborhood Advisory Group Minutes

Dick said that he thought the sound had improved but was out of town over the weekend so wasn't able to say how it was Saturday.

Rico said that he had gotten an e-mail from John's Tenant about the sound on Thursday night and immediately responded that he would try to fix it. He worked with the DJ and turned something down directly on the bass and didn't tell Corey that had been changed so still was in effect on Saturday night.

Tracy said that she had been told that curved corners can help eliminate the bass sound escaping.

Rico said that they moved the "bass tube" and are continuing to work with their sound guy to make improvements.

Doors

Most agreed that the sound is more of a problem when the doors are held open. In the front of the building this happens when there is a line to get in (when they are at capacity). The neighbors suggested keeping the door shut and having people either wait all the way outside or perhaps wait inside. Scott suggested they put up a sign "Please Keep Door Closed" and that it might not be perfect but some people would comply.

Rico said that November 21st will be a big night for them and a good one for the neighborhood to check on parking, sound, etc.

There is a lot of noise from people smoking out in the parking lot. One suggestion was to limit the number of people that could go out and the time they could be there. Most agreed this wouldn't be a workable solution. No one had a real good idea, but think it should be thought about some more. Winter will help when people won't want to be outside as long.

They have ordered sound damping material for the back door and have security posted there.

We talked a little about how it would be an advantage to reduce sound in the front of the club so that the lounge area could be more conversational. It would be good for the club and for the neighborhood.

Chuck reminded us that all of our suggestions turn into the operators having to spend more money.

Steve suggested that we concentrate on the low-hanging fruit first. Things like keeping the front door closed. That shouldn't cost anything.

Fence

Scott said that he understood that they have submitted a fence plan to the city. Rico confirmed that it was at the city.

Plan B Neighborhood Advisory Group Minutes

Someone reminded the group that Gary Tipler had suggested that something more artistic could be done with the fence near the sidewalk.

John said that it would not be a 6 foot fence all the way to the sidewalk, but would step down to 4 feet.

Scott asked for clarification that the fence would no longer be an 8 ft. tall fence. John said they agreed that would have been too expensive so now the fence would be 6ft pre-made panels.

John said that if his property was residential and not commercial the city would require the fence right along the parking lot. His tenants get a lot of light from headlights and the fence also would help keep people from wandering into the back yard.

Chuck stated that no way would he put a fence in the middle of the lot (next to the parking) because that would be like giving up his property. There could be adverse possession issues.

Laurie said it was important to for them (property owners) to continue their dialogue.

Scott said that he understands the concern about light pollution and had suggested some evergreen shrubs along the parking lot.

Check-out and Adjourn

Rico – encouraged that the sound adjustments have had a positive effect. They are trying to do all they can but don't have all the answers.

Laurie – encouraged. Recent steps should address concerns. She doesn't have e-mail so is there someone she could call if she thinks there is a problem? Rico gives her his cell phone number.

Dick – we've made great progress and is sorry that the fence is a controversy. Need to have recognition that their use of space (green space) is important because it is part of the neighborhood.

Steve – Thanks for the meeting.

Katherine – Will give and update to the ALRC.

Tracey – Ditto to Steve. Main concern is the bass noise. Saturday night it wasn't a problem.

Corey – Will try to keep the noise down and will consider evergreens.

Chuck – Good to get all of the issues on the table. Really impressed with Corey and Rico. He is concerned with the neighborhood asking for things that will cost them more money.

Plan B Neighborhood Advisory Group Minutes

John – Encouraged with the immediate action they have taken in response to tenant's e-mail. It gives him hope. Concerned about resolving issues quickly. Fence by the parking lot could take longer.

Scott – Thank you for coming. It is a good way to work together. He will circulate minutes and send them to the ALRC. The next meeting will be scheduled in 6-8 weeks.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 5:20.

Advisory Group Contacts:

Name	Phone	e-mail
Gary Tipler	286-1844	gtipler@tds.net
Steve Gallo	576-6459	titus@chorus.net
Katherine Plominski	264-9295	kplominski@cityofmadison.com
Laura Jeske	575-5853	
Greg Melde	255-2792	gmelde@charter.net
Dick Guyot	256-8080	yulashoes@hotmail.com
Rico Sabatini	692-1900	rico@planbmadison.com
Lindsey Lee	220-7910	groundzerocoffee@yahoo.com
Corey Gresen	772-0040	corey@planbmadison.com
John Rolfsmeyer	212-4702	1st.john5.11@gmail.com
Officer Hemming	266-4248	chemming@cityofmadison.com
Chuck Chvala	258-8222	
Scott Thornton	255-5969	sbthornton@goochpages.com
Laurie Wermter	255-9408	lwermter@library.wisc.edu
Tracy Gallo	259-0703	trgallo@hotmail.com