

March 2, 2010, 4:00 p.m.  
Neighborhood Group Meeting with Plan B  
924 Williamson Street

Attendees: Steve Gallo, Greg Melde, Dick Guyot, Rico Sabatini, Corey Gresen, Chuck Chvala, Katherine Plominski, Scott Thornton

The group started the discussion with the letter from John Rolfsmeyer concerning placement of a fence along the property line. The neighborhood group decided that the placement of the fence was an issue to be worked out between the neighbors and the city. We did not take a position on its placement.

Next we talked about sound/noise and how things were going. Corey pointed out that additional speakers were added to one wall which meant that the overall volume could be turned down. More speakers meant that they could direct sound without turning the volume as high.

Dick had done some research on base sound and said that it can adversely affect your body. He said younger people like music louder because they have damaged their hearing.

Corey said that he would be installing base traps at the front of the building. The base traps are supposed to capture the base sound so it does not permeate the building where the wall meets the ceiling. We talked about the complaints from Andrea next door. She said in an e-mail that the sound had been much better, but suddenly worse some nights. Corey and Rico explained how the DJs bring in their own equipment and can override what they had set for the base. They will work to make sure that the DJs understand the acceptable base levels.

Sound from people seemed to be more of an issue this time than music. Dick said he walked down one night when he thought it the music was loud and found more noise coming from the Wisco. Greg said that he wasn't noticing the music. Thursday nights are especially louder with people outside smoking and yelling. Corey and Rico said that Thursdays was their 18+ night and the younger crowd is a little louder.

Next we talked about the smoking area they are proposing and taking to the city Plan Commission. The plans include the smoking area/patio and the property line fence to address issues with the immediate neighbors. Rico said that they would also like for people to be able to bring drinks outside. Katherine said they would need to go to the ALRC for that and would also need approval from the Plan Commission.

The neighbors talked about the pros and cons of the outdoor area. It would be good to corral the smokers and the fence could help the sound. It's important not to add an additional problem. We discussed that it would be best if there were not tables and chairs outside so people did not linger and no outdoor music. We talked about additional screening/sound muffling by using canvas along the side or overhead to direct sound back away from Willy Street. Someone asked Katherine about capacity of the outdoor space. She said generally they require 5 sq. ft. per person. The neighbors agreed they would be ok with the outdoor space and outdoor drinks.

We discussed the timing and whether or not they could wait a month. Rico felt it was very important to move ahead because the property fence was something they had promised the neighbors last fall and would like to start that work as soon as possible. It is supposed to keep people out of the neighbor's yard and help shield the house from headlights. The

smoking/patio area would also address the outdoor noise from smokers that will become worse without it as the weather warms. It was pointed out that the MNA board meets the night after the ALRC. Core and Rico agreed to come to the MNA meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> and that if the ALRC approves that Marsha could pull it at the council meeting if there were concerns. Katherine confirmed.

We then talked more about people being outside and how to deal with that noise in general. For smokers, could Plan B change their bracelet policy so that smokers would need to go to the patio area to smoke and if they went out the front door could not get back in? We talked about the long lines that had been outside lately with people waiting to get in.

Rico said that they would like to ask for an increase in capacity. The building capacity is up to 400 and their current license is for 200 Sunday through Wednesday and 250 Thursday through Saturday. It would help them if they could have an increased capacity financially and it would help the neighborhood if people could get in instead of wait outside. Scott shared that he had been there the weekend with the long lines and was with friends from Middleton. One friend was waiting for her son and his girlfriend to get in and didn't understand why they couldn't come in because there was room inside.

Rico brought up, and Scott confirmed, that the MNA letter sent to the ALRC last summer supported a capacity of 300. Katherine advised Corey and Rico not to ask for something too big and that an additional 50 seemed reasonable. This would bring the capacity to 250 during the week and 300 on the weekend. Corey and Rico said this would be very helpful because it has become an issue with planning corporate parties and weddings.

The group talked more about the pros and cons of the capacity and after much consideration the neighbors decided that they were ok with the patio and the change in capacity if Plan B would promise, at Steve's suggestion, to bring in a sound engineer to evaluate how they could help control/contain the sound better and maybe zone it so the front was more quiet. Chuck suggested that the sound engineer should also look at their plans for the outdoor area to make sure that the sound is controlled and meets its intent of deflecting it from the neighbors.

Corey and Rico agreed to bring in the sound engineer and let Steve know when he would be on site. They will also attend the MNA board meeting on March 18<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m. We will meet again in a couple of months.