

Subject: FW: Marquette Neighborhood Association voted against removal of Jenifer stops
Attachments: MNA Jan 2015 Notes2.pdf

From: Amanda White | [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2015 4:47 PM
To: Kamp, Charles; Gary Poulson; Benishek Clark, Anne
Cc: Lynn Lee; Anne Walker; Michael Soref
Subject: Marquette Neighborhood Association voted against removal of Jenifer stops

Hello Chuck and Gary,

Just in case this was not sent to you, Marquette Neighborhood Association Board of Directors unanimously voted against the removal of the Jenifer Street stops. This is the account from our February board minutes:

"The Traffic Committee also voted unanimously to oppose the current proposal to remove bus stops on Jenifer Street. Many neighbors voiced opposition during the Jan. 5th Jenifer reconstruction neighborhood meeting. Neighbors are especially opposed to removal of the stop in front of Wil-Mar. Anne made reference to the current Isthmus article discussing the bus stop elimination on Jenifer.

ACTION: Colleen made a motion to oppose elimination of the stops, with the acknowledgment that we recently lost a bus stop at the corner of Baldwin and Williamson Street. Cheema seconded the motion. All approved."

On a side note, I am a member of the neighborhood association board and I joined my fellow board members in voting against it. I believe that it is not prudent to cut stops to one of the most heavily used areas in the metro service district.

Thank you and I hope all of you are well!
Amanda

Amanda White LLC
[REDACTED]

Helping non-profit organizations achieve their greatest potential

**Marquette Neighborhood Association
Board of Directors Monthly Meeting
January 17, 2015
Minutes authored by Amanda White**

In Attendance:

Board of Directors: Jatima Cheema, John Coleman, Colleen Hayes, Renee Lauber, Lynn Lee, Jesse Pycha-Holst, Anne Walker, Amanda White, Carl Dorocher

Community: Sgt. Alex Berkovitz, Sgt. Scott Kleinfeldt, Peter Wolfe, Gary Tipler, Peter Bradley, Alder Marsha Rummel

Neighborhood Policing Report:

Sgt. Kleinfeldt reported that Marquette will have a few changes in our neighborhood policing team. Officer Lewis is no longer in charge of our neighborhood. We will be assigned a new officer soon. Sgt. Alex Berkovitz is replacing Sgt. Kleinfeldt in our neighborhood. Overall, Marquette is assigned four officers and a sergeant in 2015. This is one less officer than in previous years.

Officers have conducted a lot of foot patrol even through the cold weather. Recently three officers walked five miles around downtown to Plan B. Officers have also been conducting bar checks. Plan B seems to be doing well, with fewer complaints received from the neighborhood. Regularly on Thursday nights, officers stop in at Plan B because that's the busiest evening. There was a fight at Crystal Corner last week. No charges were filed. Sgt. Kleinfeldt doesn't anticipate future problems.

Anne asked Sgt. Kleinfeldt to confirm the time that waste removal is allowed to start work in the neighborhood. Officer Kleinfeldt will check on this and confirm with us.

Anne's been getting tagged by "Von" for 10 years, and recently it started up again. Sgt. Kleinfeldt explained that it's difficult to find culprits. If neighbors notice anyone lurking please report it.

President's Report:

Lynn's first item of business was to fill the open Board position.

ACTION: Lynn made a motion to approve Carl DuRocher to the Board. Jesse seconded the motion. All approved.

The group warmly welcomed Carl back to the Board.

Lynn is stepping down from chairing the Values Committee. Renee has volunteered to take his place.

The skate park is breaking ground this summer. There's been some complaints of skateboarding problems in the neighborhood. Colleen recommends that neighbors call non-emergency police to report kids who are being unsafe on their skateboards.

MNA will keep \$10,000 in reserves for the skateboard park until the construction contract is launched. Keeping the money in the bank until it's needed will enable MNA to maximize interest earnings. Marsha shared that the City has awarded the contract to Drax, Inc.

Treasurer Report:

Cheema reported that there's been very little activity. Profit and Loss statement for the past three months shows a total income of \$787 since October of which \$250 is for festivals. Total expenses were \$1,248. MNA currently has \$103,000 in savings. Financial transactions will increase in April when festival activities resume. Regarding the festivals budget item on the agenda, Cheema explained the 2015 budget approved in the general meeting requires MNA to net \$40,000 from festivals fund raising. Given the festival gross revenue from last year of \$165,000, it gives us \$125,000 to spend on festivals to ensure \$40,000 net for programs approved during the general meeting. To meet the \$125,000 expenses, some cuts needed to be made. The festivals and fund raising committee cut back the band budget. Colleen confirmed that the new bands budget is realistic and can be achieved by focusing recruitment efforts on more local acts.

ACTION: Renee made the motion to approve the new festival budget. Anne seconded the motion. All approved.

Traffic Committee:

Anne reported that the committee voted unanimously that the driveway proposed for the State's new historic archive facility (behind Mickey's) is in an inappropriate location. The driveway is an outlet for 33 car parking spaces. It would cross two main bike paths, which are heavily-used corridors for bike and pedestrian traffic.

The MNA board will hold an e-vote on the driveway issue before the next MNA meeting.

The Traffic Committee also voted unanimously to oppose the current proposal to remove bus stops on Jenifer Street. Many neighbors voiced opposition during the Jan. 5th Jenifer reconstruction neighborhood meeting. Neighbors are especially opposed to removal of the stop in front of Wil-Mar. Anne made reference to the current Isthmus article discussing the bus stop elimination on Jenifer.

ACTION: Colleen made a motion to oppose elimination of the stops, with the acknowledgment that we recently lost a bus stop at the corner of Baldwin and Williamson Street. Cheema seconded the motion. All approved.

Anne encouraged Board members to attend the Metro public hearing regarding the stop removal on Feb. 11.

Jenifer Street Reconstruction:

The City gave a presentation on the reconstruction proposal at a neighborhood meeting on Jan 5. Neighbors reacted negatively to many of the proposed improvements, partly due to the city's lack of providing a clear description of changes being made. One of the most contentious issue is the narrowing of Jenifer Street. Anne shared that local streets are typically 32 feet and 36 feet for collectors. Jenifer is currently 40 feet. Marsha shared that the City is considering only narrowing to 38 feet due to the negative feedback during the meeting.

Other questions that Anne and the committee feel haven't yet been addressed by the City include: How do we best manage canopy trees? How do we best create a street which meets goals sustainability plan? How can the design be most supportive of the neighborhood center? How can damage to historic homes be mitigated?

The committee recommends that MNA request a year delay on the reconstruction project to allow time to have more questions answered and a more thorough design discussion with the neighborhood. Discussion included Marsha's suggestions that MGE start community conversations around under-grounding the utilities. Marsha called Gary Wolter of MGE to discuss. Many Board members felt delay was important.

The City has scheduled a follow-up community meeting on January 21, 6pm at the Wil-Mar Center. Amanda recommended waiting until after that discussion for the Board vote on delay.

ACTION: Renee made a motion to generate a list of MNA's questions regarding the proposal and send it to City Engineering before the Jan. 21 meeting. Colleen seconded the motion. All approved.

Preservation and Development Committee:

Jesse explained the committee discussed the most efficient way to communicate agendas, notices, and communications. He expects this to be a voting item in the future.

There was a miscommunication regarding the Brink Lounge at 701 E. Washington. Brinks are not requesting a change in their alcohol license. They requested to attend the P&D Committee to continue a good relationship with MNA.

The committee had a discussion around demolition by neglect, focusing on Williamson Street properties. Soref and Coleman will produce an inventory of buildings on Willy St. Walker requested that Winnebago be added to the inventory area. Wolff and JPH will produce criteria for neglect.

The committee ended the meeting with a discussion on policies for bar/restaurant saturation in the Williamson Street corridor. Lindsay and Jesse will draft a written policy for the next committee meeting. Committee members suggested the following items be considered: outdoor seating curfews, no backyard outdoor seating, 11pm – 12am closing time for responsible operators, no entertainment licenses, and staying open until 2am makes the establishment a bar.

Other MNA Board discussion included John's question as to whether the limited number of store fronts on Williamson Street limits the variety of business. John visited a Baltimore neighborhood with 300 small storefronts, resulting in a great mix of retail and high end restaurants.

Anne reminded the Board that Mayor Soglin is beginning the conversation of State Street composition in early 2015.

Parks and Gardens:

Blair Street Gardens asked for support of their project (verbal support, not monetary). Lynn passed around the current design. He explained that this project has been in progress for many years. Avante is going to fund the project and give feedback on the design. Lynn confirmed that it's designed so seating areas are easily seen from the street for security. Anne recommended the group consider rain gardens. Carl recommended the group consider additional permeable surfaces.

ACTION: Amanda moved that MNA support the Blair Street Gardens redesign. Renee seconded the motion. All approved.

Membership and Communication:

Renee shared that the committee is planning to redesign the website and secure a new hosting site. Cheema strongly encouraged the committee to move quickly on this. There was general support from the Board to support increased expenses for hosting and design. The committee is evaluating options, including potential volunteer interest in supporting the project. The committee will soon return to the Board with a proposal for moving forward.

Arts:

Lynn informed the Board that Scott Thorton has stepped down as Chair of Art Committee. New co-chairs are Jack Kear and Sharon Kilfoy.

Festivals and Fundraising:

Colleen asked if anyone was opposed to having all Board names on the 50 for 50 letter. No one opposed. She also shared that Amanda is meeting with Lynn to discuss fundraising priorities outside of the festival fundraising.

December Minutes:

Action: Colleen made the motion to approve the MNA December minutes. Cheema seconded the motion. Carl abstained. All approved (with the exception of Carl)

Marsha's report:

Marsha recently met with Ken Saiki of Ken Saiki Design. Ken said Louis Fortis wants to demolish the small house at 910 Williamson to build a new 3 story development with a 4 story set back. The project would need a conditional use permit. Marsha is organizing a neighborhood meeting in early February to discuss the project. It will then go to the Landmarks Commission on Feb. 16. John requested that the project come to P&D.

The Paint Bar is on hold as the owner has not developed a satisfactory site plan. Lynn emailed the owner of the paint bar and she is attending the February P&D meeting and an upcoming MNA Board meeting.

Marsha's heard nothing about Mautz Block since it went to UDC.

There will be a Central Park Meeting March 10 place TBD. Attendees will discuss overall experiences from 2014, in addition to a specific discussion regarding the banning of tent stakes in the ground.

A new hotel, the King Hotel, is being built on the edge of our district. Anne is concerned about too much "luxury" and high-end prices downtown.

The Council rejected the latest Judge Doyle Square proposal. It will be going out to bid again. Mayor Soglin has pledged to spend no TIFF money on the hotel. Anne wants to recommend that there are micro-units for the hotel.

Adjournment:

Action: Jesse moved to adjourn the meeting. Anne seconded the motion. All approved.