



City of Madison

City of Madison
Madison, WI 53703
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Meeting Minutes - Approved EMERSON EAST-EKEN PARK-YAHARA NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE

Thursday, January 23, 2014

6:30 PM

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
2670 Milwaukee Street

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Present: 7 -

Arthur M. Hackett; Amy L. Klusmeier; Adrienne Sella; David A. Albino;
Douglas J. Buege; Aaron E. Onsrud and Daniel S. Grubb

Excused: 1 -

Keely M. Merchant

City Alders and Staff: Alder Ledell Zellers (District 2); Alder Larry Palm (District 12); Linda Horvath and Ryan Jonely (Planning & Community & Economic Development); and Roger Allen (City Attorney).

PUBLIC COMMENT

DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

1. [32849](#) General Business

A motion was made by Sella, seconded by Grubb and Buege, to elect Albino and Onsrud as Co-Chairs of the EEPY SC. The motion was approved by voice vote/other.

A motion was made by Hackett, seconded by Sella to set the EEPY SC regular meeting day, unless otherwise noticed, as the fourth Wednesday of every month. The start time may vary. The motion was approved by voice vote/other. The next meeting will be Wednesday February 26, 2014, 6:30 p.m. at Bashford United Methodist Church, Room 3, 329 North St.

2. [32850](#) Wisconsin Open Meetings Requirements

- SC members can be fined if they do not follow Wisconsin Open Meetings Law.
- Chair of SC should always start meetings by asking City staff whether meeting was properly noticed, e.g. a notice was published by the City Clerk at least 24 hours before the meeting date/time.
- Every SC meeting agenda must be preceded with a properly noticed agenda that is detailed enough so that members of the public know the item will be taken up by the SC.
- Quorum for EEPY SC is six members and a negative quorum is three members.
- SC members may share things with their neighborhood associations that come up at the SC meetings. However, no SC business should be conducted outside of SC meetings and SC members should always copy City staff on any email messages they send or receive concerning SC business.
- SC members should not communicate with each other via email and that includes replying to all when SC members receive emails from City staff.

- Alders can participate during SC meetings as they are considered members of the SC body. However, Alders may not vote on any motions before the SC.
- The Chair should not vote and if and when the Co-Chair acts as Chair, that person should not vote. However, the Chair, or any person acting as the Chair, may vote whenever their vote will change the outcome of the motion. The SC may adopt a written rule of procedure allowing for a Chair to vote at all times.
- Any subcommittees created by the SC must follow Wisconsin Open Meetings Law.
- SC members who have any questions about Wisconsin Open Meetings Law or related topics may call the City Attorney's Office (608-266-4511) and ask for City Attorney Roger Allen, Patricia Lauten or Michael May.

3. [32851](#)

Plan Development

Planning Process - explanation of the plan purpose, scope, work plan/timeline, public participation, and the roles of the steering committee, alders and city staff. SC members are encouraged to solicit input from their neighborhoods and targeted outreach will be provided in the Superior Street area.

Appointed Committee Members

There are currently 8 appointed members of the 10 member EEPY SC. One of the members had to resign. There are other applicants that the Mayor's Office may pursue.

Open Superior Street Position - keep Superior Street position open and continue recruiting for a couple of months. Use such approaches as direct contact with potential candidates, poster in Manna, information through the Sherman Neighborhood Association and other approaches. Keeping the position open will not alter the SC quorum of six members.

Open Business Position - a small business owner has applied and the application is pending review by the Mayor and confirmation by the Common Council.

Potential Alternates - no alternate positions will be pursued; SC will make a concerted effort to engage other individuals and groups throughout the planning process.

SC Top Issues

Aaron Onsrud, Yahara Area - Briarwood Apartments

Assets - diverse group of parks, interesting mix of uses including a variety of businesses

Concerns - lack of commercial corridor identity (e.g. like Willy Street), lack of sidewalks along Packers Avenue bordering Demetral Field, unsafe to bike down Fordem Ave. and E. Johnson St. and difficult to cross for pedestrians and bicyclists at 1st / E. Johnson St.

Douglas J. Buege, Yahara Area - Sherman Terrace

Assets - Sherman Terrace is affordable and has good access to parks and open space amenities.

Concerns - noise from the rail corridor, large empty asphalt lot and invasive plants on Sony property, traffic safety at Fordem Ave. and E. Johnson St.

Daniel S. Grubb, Business - Webcrafters

Opportunities - make the area more aesthetically appealing through plantings and other streetscape improvements.

David A. Albino, Emerson East Neighborhood

Assets - socio-economic and racial diversity, high walkability and easy access to major Schenk-Atwood amenities via major arterial-E. Washington Ave.

Concerns - E. Johnson St. near First is in bad/unsafe condition, E. Johnson/First St. Emerson-East entrance corridor is not aesthetically pleasing, difficult and dangerous for pedestrians to cross E. Washington Ave., neighborhood is very dark at night.

Opportunities - consider blinking pedestrian lights on E. Washington Ave. similar to the blinking lights on E. Johnson St. near Milios, 4&20 and East High properties, consider undergrounding utility wires/poles to improve urban canopy in

neighborhood, consider changing façade murals on properties on E. Johnson near First similar to the brick wall on Mother Fool's.

Adrienne Sella, Emerson East Neighborhood

Assets - bikeable, desirable new businesses.

Concerns - some commercial areas like North St. look a little tired, E. Johnson is in bad condition and it is unsafe and uncomfortable for biking and driving a moped, neighborhood needs an identity (add public art, etc.).

Opportunities - commercial corridor improvements such as additional pedestrian lights, banners identifying neighborhood (see Grand Rapids, MI example), landscaping, and other amenities, consider façade improvements to buildings, and use the City's Façade Grant Improvement Program, CDBG dollars, other.

Arthur M. Hackett, Eken Park Neighborhood

Assets - affordable, walkable, mass transit access.

Concerns - small pockets of criminal activity that have large impact.

Opportunities - improve building code enforcement, Union Corners project has potential to become a driving landmark.

Amy L. Klusmeier, Eken Park Neighborhood

Assets - land use, housing and socio-economic diversity.

Concerns - there is a lack of pedestrian safety, difficult accessing neighborhood if not in a car, poor soil quality (particular problem for gardeners).

Opportunities - improve sustainability of neighborhoods, revitalize 1st & Johnson to Pennsylvania & Commercial corridor, maintain affordability of neighborhood as Capitol East Gateway Corridor, Union Corners and other potential redevelopment proceeds.

4. [32852](#)

Next Meeting

- Identify priority issues - consider September 18, 2013 Open House input, and public input from other initiatives like the Yahara River Corridor, North-Hoard-Commercial Ave. Reconstruction, Brownfields Redevelopment and Union Corners projects.
- Develop vision statement.
- Plan focus groups for the Superior Street area and for other stakeholders.
- Consider meeting location with WiFi and large screen to view neighborhood and discuss issues using Google Maps.

ADJOURNMENT

**A motion was made by Buege, seconded by Onsrud, to Adjourn at 9:32 p.m.
The motion passed by voice vote/other.**

Funding for the Emerson East-Eken Park-Yahara Neighborhood Plan project is supported by the City of Madison Department of Planning & Community & Economic Development, Community Development Block Grant and the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development.