

VNA Council Meeting Minutes - April 2023

Wednesday, April 12, 2023

6:30 p.m. via Zoom

Term Ending 2023

Doug Carlson, President
Rachel Bennett, Treasurer
Regan Botsford, Secretary
Wendy Fearnside

Term Ending 2024

Bonnie Gruber
Lee Lazar (absent)
Leon Maurer
Michael Rewey

6:32 Call to Order

- Meeting Rules: Remain on mute unless talking.
- Approval of February 2023 Minutes. Rachel motioned, Mike seconded. February minutes passed.
- Join the listserv: Send an email to VilasNA+subscribe@groups.io
- Website: vilasneighborhood.com Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/vilasna>
- Donations: (Dues no longer required) <https://www.vilasneighborhood.com/take-action>

6:35 New Business #1

- Brian Hamilton, owner of Kettle Black Kitchen: Expansion combining 1835 & 1839 Monroe St.
- Looking into expanding space into HAIR. Kettle Black and HAIR were actually combined about 20 years ago. Currently only 9 tables in the restaurant space. Hoping to expand into HAIR location and liquor license (class B which includes full spirits).
- Note: Council can email a letter of support or rejection to ALRC. Council will not vote on this tonight.
- Brian/Kettle Black has been in business for over 20 months.
- Current capacity approved around 50, expect to approximately double it. The rooms are almost mirror images of each other. There will not be an expansion of the kitchen. The build out will be tables and chairs, and reposition the bar. Currently, the bar has a capacity of five seats. The bar would naturally get bigger (somewhere between 5-10 seats). Hoping to keep bar in current space. Expecting to have second part of space open on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and during parties.
- Regarding hours, Brian would like to request that the space stay open until at least midnight. For parties, 1:00 AM would be ideal. Doug notes we will take a look at everything after the liquor license proposal has been submitted. Brian is planning to drop off his application at City Hall tomorrow.
- Doug clarifies that we will want to see the proposal in writing before we take any position. Please keep Doug and Alder Evers in the loop and they will try to coordinate with Dungeon-Monroe as well.
- Wendy asks if we need to take a formal position on the expansion as well, and Tag does not believe that we need to in this situation.

6:45 New Business #2:

- Madison Metro redesign & impact near Vilas neighborhood. Shanae Meacham and Carol Cizaukas, Madison Metro
- Shanae shared that hers and Carol's role is to share information, they are not city planners.

- Priorities include accessibility. Going back to lettered lines in the hopes to simplify what the whole system looks like. Many of the new routes look similar to the lines that ran twenty years ago. Goal to limit 'via' type services to make routes more straightforward. Many of the routes were combined. Many of the transfer points on West, North and East will be retired. South Transfer Point will remain.
- Specifically for Vilas, D1 and D2 (on Monroe) will combine and run every 15 minutes, E (on Regent) will run every 30 minutes, O (Randall) will run every 60 minutes. More information regarding bus line updates and bus stops can be found in the attachment included below.
 - Question/Answer Will the campus circulators remain? Yes. They will.
 - You can see all 80 routes, map by map here: <https://www.cityofmadison.com/metro/routes-schedules/transit-network-redesign>
 - Tag notes that regarding the Randall roundabout update, the goal was to have bus access to the Zoo.
 - Tag notes that BRT (Bus Rapid Transit), buses will not be moving quickly down State Street.
- (Internal discussion: This took place pre-presentation): Doug notes there will be changes in the bus lines, Number 6 will be reduced, more lines on Monroe and S. Randall. More information can be found here: <https://www.cityofmadison.com/metro/routes-schedules/transit-network-redesign> and https://www.cityofmadison.com/metro/documents/network-redesign/june11-service/System_Map_3-9.pdf
 - Tag notes that sometimes these changes can be difficult if you had a stop in front of your home but provides broader service. Changes scheduled to be implemented in June. Plans include a thinning of the traffic circle on Randall.
 - Doug asks if Roz could please update changes regarding Route O in Good Neighbor Digest when these changes are available.

7:00 Alder Update (Tag Evers, District 13)

- Tag is happy to be reelected and help in any way. Things are slow during election time. [Next Council meeting April 18](#). Include 7 newly elected Alders, 1 returning, around the city. Tag will record the meeting and it will be posted on his [blog](#).
- If we want to address the turnover in Alder retention, we should consider increasing their salaries. Alder salaries are currently \$13/hour.
- Tag will continue to be diligent in supporting affordable housing, sustainability, expansion of CARES, Dark Sky Association compliance and all of the issues of concern.
- Tag regarding [Dark Sky](#) notes that we are not talking about eliminating all lighting, but proper illumination. Glare is an issue with excessive lighting.
- Mike notes that E. Washington is a good example of proper lighting.
- Tag's concern really began with Lake Wingra. As the city grows, we should be mindful of preserving our natural areas as true respites. If we aren't careful we are going to lose it.
- Regarding crime, he'd like to share a reminder to call the non-emergency police line (608.255.2345) when an issue arises and have a conversation with MPD.

7:15 Reports & Committee Updates

- President's Report
 - New MPD officer Jeff Hayes. Will join us on May 24.
 - [Brush collection](#) is next week.
 - Shell has a few more open skates so please do try and make it. New rink will be at the Nat. (We were hoping to have a neighborhood skate, but we were unable to get it together).

- Treasurer's Report
 - Positive balance as we go into the year. Our finances are looking healthy right now.
- Standing Committees
 - Social- Chair: Bethany Nelson
 - Bethany made a connection with Resurrection Church and they are interested in connecting with Vilas in the future.
 - Concepts- play group list, neighborhood rummage sale, play group and babysitters list.
 - Vilas Summer Celebration- let's start thinking about the date.
 - Sarah notes a reminder that book club is coming up on April 27..
 - Zoning- Chairs: Ben Biltz and Wendy Fearnside
 - Current proposal for redevelopment at Jensen Auto location. [Please join the meeting Thursday, April 13 at 7:00PM](#). Doug shared all of the pertinent information.
 - Tag notes that there is a revitalization effort of Regent Street. Regent Street recently established TID (Tax-Incremental District) effort. That increment will go toward increment of Regent Street. Hope that we see a new Regent Street for years to come.
 - Membership- Chair: Mary Clare Murphy (no update)
 - Edgewood- Chair: Craig Stanley (no update)
 - Transportation- Chair: Mike Rewey
 - Meeting on Tuesday, April 18 at 10:30, Barrique's. Current members include Mike and Sally Lehner.
 - Mike will send out meeting reminder and agenda beforehand.
 - Items for consideration include:
 - Yield to Ped sign at the SB Monroe street tight turn onto WB Regent Street.
 - Lane movement designations for SB Breese Terrace and Regent Street.
 - Far right lane running at activated ped warning crossings (Harrison/Prospect, Van Buren and Edgewood).
 - Signage where Edgewood Avenue goes into Vilas Park.
 - Accomplishments: (outside of VNA) Requested and will be getting four way stop at Knickerbocker and Arbor Drive (Wingra Park).
- Liaisons & Appointments
 - Joint Area Campus Committee (JCAC). Appointee: Doug Carlson
 - Vilas Ink. Editor: Bonnie Gruber
 - The next issue of the Vilas Ink Newsletter will be online and come out around the end of May. Encourage ideas, articles, etc. Please contact Bonnie directly.
 - Bonnie asks about going to color for e-version- issue to be discussed.
 - Bear Mound Park. Liaison: Eileen Thompson (no update)
 - Block Captains: Coordinator: Roz Woodward (no update (thanks Roz for the Good Neighbor Digest)
 - Listserv. Co-Moderators: Brad Ricker and Ankur Desai (no update)
 - District 13 Alliance. Liaison: Lee Lazar (no update)
 - VNA Website. Webmaster: Leon Maurer (no update)
 - Vilas Park. Liaisons: Wendy Fearnside and Ann Rivlin (no update)
 - Zoo. Liaisons: Bonnie Gruber and Ann Rivlin
 - Upcoming Zoo Events: 1. Party for the Planet on April 22 (Zoo's daytime Earth Day Celebration). They give away saplings at the event, big zoo day.
 - Two events in June (both ticketed events)

- June 9 Pride Event evening event (likely 6-9:30), planning 1,000 tickets.
- June 24: Long Necks for Long Necks (a fundraiser to support major changes to giraffe area) 1,500 tickets. Likely similar to typical zoo lights attendance. There will also be African music for a portion of it as well.
- The Zoo liaisons are also working closely with Madison Parks to improve signage to remedy parking confusion and also increase public awareness of parking available in lots and locations nearby.

Wendy notes [Madison Parks' Earth Day Clean Up Day Challenge](#). Madison has over 200 parks and they are looking for people to clean up brush and rubbish. Please sign up [here](#).

Adjourn.

The meeting was called to a close at 8:12PM.

Future Meeting Dates: (6:30 via Zoom)

- Weds. May 24 (then fourth Weds. through October)