

VNA Council Meeting Minutes - May 2023

Wednesday, May 24, 2023

6:30 p.m. via Zoom

Term Ending 2023

Doug Carlson, President (present)
Rachel Bennett, Treasurer (present)
Regan Botsford, Secretary (present)
Wendy Fearnside (absent)

Term Ending 2024

Bonnie Gruber (present)
Lee Lazar (present)
Leon Maurer (present)
Michael Rewey (present)

6:32 Call to Order

- Meeting Rules: Remain on mute unless talking.
- Join the listserv: Send an email to VilasNA+subscribe@groups.io
- Website: vilasneighborhood.com Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/vilasna>
- Donations: (Reminder to please [donate](#) if you can, dues no longer required).
- The Council unanimously approved the April 2023 minutes.

6:35 MPD Neighborhood Liaison

- Introduction and welcome: Officer Jeffrey Hayes (jhayes@cityofmadison.com)
- Pleasure to serve Vilas neighborhood for the next year. Currently work at 3 Baker Q (this translates to shift 2PM-10PM, Baker to our Midtown District, 2 stands for patrol beat (Vilas/Greenbush, covers everything from Picnic Point to Arboretum, East of Farley, West of Park Street).
- Originally from the corporate world and regularly checks email, so please do not hesitate to send email message.
- More than happy to meet in person if you would like. There's a nice community room at the Midtown District station or he would be happy to meet out for coffee/muffin.
- Goal is to provide safety prevention- safety in homes, children/grandchildren safe to play at home. As your community partner, if you see anything suspicious, please reach out. Officer Hayes encourages the community to call the non-emergency line at 608.229.8200.
- Chief Barnes has established a [five year plan](#). Strongly encourage you to read about it- the plan revolves around stratified policing and an evidenced based approach. Focused on finding the areas/people who need our support.
- Goal to reduce vehicular accidents that are resulting in great bodily harm and death.
- Concern with people speeding, driving dangerously, etc.
- Also, part of the [mounted patrol unit](#)- we ride the neighborhoods quite often.
- Questions: Lee- concern regarding the area around the zoo- more dangerous driving, especially around game day.
- [TEST](#) five officers including a sergeant and a lieutenant who is assigned to traffic. Officers analyzing how traffic is flowing

- Tag: notes there has been some drag racing on Monroe Street on the weekends. Drag racing seems to be more of a weekend phenomenon.
- Shared concern that the racing is continuing down Jefferson.
- Tag shared aggressive driving is one of the three areas that MPD is focusing on.
- Doug shared with Officer Hayes that we would be happy for him to come back, hopefully he can come back for the August meeting. Neighborhood block party on June 10.
- Officer Hayes reminds everyone to lock your vehicle this summer. There will be an uptick in stolen vehicles.

6:45 Proposed Mini-Mart w/ Alcohol License at 1401 Regent (June 21 @ ALRC)

- Meenu and Neeraj Kaushal, owners
- Would like to sell beer and wine- similar to the previous layout as 7-11.
- Pending more information regarding the 7-11, they may consider running 24 hours. Regarding alcohol, none larger than 20 oz., beer and wine, pending hard liquor. Very similar to the 7-11.
- Tag shares there would be a concern with liquor licenses that sell hard liquor because of the large number of licenses that exist already and the fact there's a liquor store close to the location as well.
- Doug notes that the 7-11 was open 24/7. There were a few issues of robberies in the middle of the night. The VNA went through the liquor license process with a neighboring location that included stipulations of no hard liquor, no containers of 25oz. or more and no keg sales. The alcohol license was submitted on May 12. Doug asks if they could send it over for review.
- Owners own a few other businesses including a beauty store, and another mart. This will not be a franchise, it will be their own business. Their business will be different in that they will provide more grocery items- leaning in on their own experience, friends and family..
- Tag shared that MPD will want to meet with them as well. Neeraj and Meenu will definitely be meeting with them too.
- Expecting to be at [ALRC](#) on June 21. VNA will take vote via email.
- Hans asks about deliveries and pickups in front of space on Regent. Neeraj and Meenu noted that deliveries can be made elsewhere- and appreciates this feedback because they do not want any issue. Meenu asks for Hans' email so they can handle it in an appropriate way- goal is to run smoothly. Doug notes that previous deliveries were made on Randall and Randall will be part of the [new bus routes](#) so might add some complexities to the deliveries.

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

- [Tag](#) participated in training scenarios for firefighters. There were four different scenarios: fire attack, search and rescue, vehicle extraction, emergency medical services. It was a fascinating experience and a hand-on opportunity for the people who vote on their funding. Really impressed with this team of individuals.
- Jensen Auto project moving forward in Greenbush.

- The Neighborhood House is moving forward. Demolish building, temporarily relocate and rebuild with affordable housing space included.
- The city has organized a traffic safety [discussion](#) on May 31 with route redesign and new Metro route on Randall. Opportunity for the community to ask questions, etc. The meeting will be recorded.
- There's also going to be a meeting regarding parking issues at Vilas Zoo on busy days. Tag meeting with Parks Department, May 26 at 11AM.
- Tag notes there are really great things happening in our city.

7:15 Reports & Committee Updates

- President's Report
 - Taco Bar requested an extension on liquor license, One and Only still coming, Kettle Black likely got approved last Wednesday, Lallande has already been approved.
 - Doug was contacted by a UW student interested in helping to improve the rain garden at Adams/Mounds/Campbell intersection with grant funds. Doug may need additional funding- Doug will get a proposal and plan soon to everyone.
 - Treasurer's Report
 - Positive balance, do have some expenses coming in for parties.
 - Standing Committees
 - Social Chair: Bethany Nelson
 - Block Party on June 10 (4PM-9PM)- looking for volunteers to set-up/break down)
 - July 4 party to be coordinated soon.
 - Book Club on June 22. Sarah will send out an email.
 - Zoning Chairs: Ben Biltz and Wendy Fearnside
 - Watching 2023 [Comprehensive Plan Interim Update](#). Going through the first area plan and keeping an eye on progress.
 - Ben wanted to share a reminder that if anyone is ever interested in joining the committee, please do not hesitate to reach out.
 - Membership Chair: Mary Clare Murphy (no update)
 - Edgewood Chair: Craig Stanley (no update)
 - Transportation Chair: Mike Rewey (Mike's notes copied in)
 - Sally and Mike would like to get more people involved.
 - Review committee [minutes](#). Lane movement designations at SB Breese Terrace and Regent Street are done. Will request a permanent solution for right lane running (education and enforcement is not the answer).
 - Council Approval
 - Mike will send to Tom Lynch and Yang Tao of City Traffic.
- Accomplishments: - (outside of VNA). Requested and got a 4-way stop at Knickerbocker and Arbor Drive (Wingra Park).
- May 28. Madison ½ Marathon will impact Vilas on Monroe St, Edgewood Ave and Madison St.
 - June 3 to 10. Bike to Work Week – neighborhood/children could set up a table on the path at Harrison or Crazy Leg Corners?
 - June 11. New bus routes begin.
 - Mid-August. Planning for Bike Drivers Education for Students. Location to be determined. **Sally Lehner** is working with the Bike Fed and City Traffic folks.
 - **Committee will be meeting at 10:00 on Tuesday, June 13 at my house.**
 - Will send out an agenda prior. Considering discussing
 - Issues on Grant Street

- Issues on Vilas Avenue
- Liaisons & Appointments
 - Joint Area Campus Committee (JCAC) Appointee: Doug Carlson
 - Meeting tomorrow.
 - Vilas Ink Editor: Bonnie Gruber
 - Next issue close to being ready. Online only. Thanks to Bonnie for all of her hard work.
 - Bear Mound Park Liaison: Eileen Thompson (no update)
 - Block Captains: Coordinator: Roz Woodward
 - Please let Roz know if you need flyers/help.
 - Listserv Co-Moderators: Brad Ricker and Ankur Desai
 - Jill from the library is now approved to be on listserv.
 - District 13 Alliance Liaison: Lee Lazar
 - No updates for D13 Alliance.
 - Lee is working to sell Vilas neighbors produce to Monroe Street Farmers Market and should know more soon. Lee suggests proceeds go to VNA. This would be a one time experience.
 - VNA Website Webmaster: Leon Maurer
 - Updates to the website moving forward.
 - Vilas Park Liaisons: Wendy Fearnside and Ann Rivlin
 - Zoo Liaisons: Bonnie Gruber and Ann Rivlin
 - June 9 [Pride Event](#), ticketed event, limited number of attendees.
 - Parking meeting with the zoo took place on May 26.
 - Request from Greenbush Association to talk about Dinosaur Playground. Play equipment planned to be removed. There are burial mounds there. May be future meetings to discuss appropriate use. Thanks to Ann and Bonnie for their work.

Adjourn at 7:57.

Future Meeting Dates: (Wednesdays @6:30 via Zoom)

- Weds. June 28 (fourth Weds. through October, Nov. 15, Dec. 13)