

VNA Council Meeting Minutes - September 2023

Wednesday, September 27, 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 (absent)
Michael Rewey

6:33 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: (dues no longer required) <https://www.vilasneighborhood.com/take-action>
- August Meeting Minutes unanimously approved.

6:35 Establish 2023 VNA Elections Special Committee/2023 Elections Process and Annual Meeting (November 15)

- Doug nominated Mary Clare Murphy as the VNA Elections Special Committees Chair. The motion was unanimously approved.
- Mary Clare Murphy reports that three women have volunteered to be on the elections committee. They are also City of Madison election officials and familiar with the VNA ballot counting process. These individuals are Mary Ellen Schmit, Gera Bodley and Eileen Thompson.
- We need to get a notification of the election out next week that will include names of individuals running.
- Mary Clare shared that in the past a flyer has been sent out to households in Vilas with the by-laws and information regarding voting preferences. Mary Clare will have those printed out and the block captains will distribute them. Once the candidates have been identified, they will include a biography with an emphasis on certain topics, if appropriate. Mary Clare also works hard to tie up loose ends in reaching out to neighbors who haven't responded and follows up to remind them regarding the election. Roz has also been very helpful. Thanks to everyone!
- Ballot boxes are locked, checked frequently, brought in overnight. Yard signs have also been made and they've served as good reminders.
- Doug will send out an election reminder email in the first half of October.
- With elections on November 15, we will be messaging out in multiple ways starting on November 5.
- Discussion regarding using the library from 3PM-6PM as a space for in-person election ballot drop off. Deadline for the drop boxes will likely be 4PM that afternoon.
- Wendy suggests having council members present at the library to talk about the VNA (but no one who is actually running). Doug encourages other council members or representatives to sit with Mary Clare and answer any questions people may have. A second location may be Mary Clare's porch.
- The ballot boxes will be at Mary Clare and Roz's homes.

7:00 **Alder Update (Tag Evers, District 13):** Tag not present. Visit [blog](#) for any updates.

7:15 Reports & Committee Updates

- President's Report
- [Camp Cantina](#) in Hotel Red open!

- [I'm Board!](#) has gone into the Kettle Black expansion space.
- Regent Mini-Mart at [1401 Regent](#) scheduled to open very soon.
- Monroe Street Fest a success, donation made which was great.
- Neighborhood rain garden is really coming along. Thanks to everyone for their help.
- Thanks to everyone for their help with the Back to School/Bike Event, including Sally Lehner and Mike Rewey. It was a huge success.
- Treasurer's Report
- We are fiscally healthy. Discussion regarding tax submission.
- Standing Committees
 - *Social Chair*: Bethany Nelson
 - Thank you for everyone who participated and donated to the rummage sale. We made over \$200 for donations to the VNA. It was a great event. Funds will be earmarked for future social events.
 - Halloween party discussion: Bethany to reach out to Samip and discuss party and if that's on for this year. Consider trick or treating to follow. Also discussing use of map and if that's necessary.
 - Holidays: Consider upcoming holiday events- what do we want to do this year/what do we want to hold off on. Regarding the auction, it's too much bandwidth for Bethany this year. Looking for host volunteer for Cookies and Hot Chocolate event in mid-December. Craft event for kids was also a success. Helpful that space was donated. We will continue these discussions.
 - Reminder for book club (The Common Good by Robert Reich on October 26) and a thanks to Sarah!
 - *Zoning Chairs*: Ben Biltz and Wendy Fearnside
 - Recent [Plan commission/public](#) hearing meeting focused on discussing Regent street. Note:change in public hearing to November 13.
 - <https://www.cityofmadison.com/dpced/planning/comprehensive-plan/3894/>
 - https://www.cityofmadison.com/dpced/planning/documents/Plan_Sequence.pdf
 - Thanks to Wendy and Ben for their work here.
 - *Membership Chair*: Mary Clare Murphy (no additional update)
 - *Edgewood Chair*: Craig Stanley (no update)
 - *Transportation Chair*: Mike Rewey: Thanks to Sally and Regan for the bike event/back to school. Interested in forestry aspect of the streets and would like to meet with the head of forestry streets. Want to talk to parks re bike paths to make sure it works for everyone.
- Liaisons & Appointments
 - Joint Area Campus Committee (JCAC) Appointee: Doug Carlson (no update)
 - Vilas Ink Editor: Bonnie Gruber- last issue went out successfully. Will look for more advertising/stories in next. Next issue will be online only.
 - Bear Mound Park Liaison: Eileen Thompson (no update)
 - Block Captains Coordinator: Roz Woodward (no additional update)
 - Listserv Co-Moderators: Brad Ricker and Ankur Desai (no update)
 - VNA Website Webmaster: Leon Maurer (no update)
 - Vilas Park Liaisons: Wendy Fearnside and Ann Rivlin: Strategic planning meeting on October 6. Various other efforts such as the Annie Stewart Fountain.
 - Doug mentions concern of Indigenous history and being mindful of development. Consideration of signage at some point.
 - Zoo Liaisons: Bonnie Gruber and Ann Rivlin
 - Discussions of parking lot. City has restriped stalls in the parking lot. If people have visible stripes to get between, they won't be taking up a stall and a half, and less incentivized to go elsewhere.

- Parks somewhat open to including physical barriers to prevent people from parking on the grass- ranging from rocks, trees, etc.
- Zoo focused on expanding access to zoo for people with disabilities, etc. New bus routes will be included as well.
- Discussion of edible garden and mounds. Wendy mentioned Eileen's rich knowledge of history and the [survey](#).

7:56: Adjourn

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

- Wednesdays Oct. 25, Nov. 15 (elections), Dec. 13