

VNA Council Meeting Minutes - October 2023

Wednesday, October 25, 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

6:34 Call to Order

- Meeting Rules: Please 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>
- Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes September 27 unanimously approved.

6:35 Round out 2023 VNA Nomination Special Committee

- Lee Lazar is Chair. Nominate Regan Botsford and Sarah Bahauddin to Committee.
- Doug makes a motion to nominate Regan and Sarah to nominating committee- seconded by Rachel, unanimously approved.

6:40 2023 VNA Nominations and Elections Update and Annual Meeting (Election Nov. 15)

- Nomination Committee update – Lee Lazar, Nominations Special Committee Chair
- Four candidates for the four slots. Rachel and Doug to rerun for another two year term, Tommy Johnson and Chris Conrad will run for a council.
- Elections Committee update – Mary Clare Murphy, Elections Special Committee Chair. Discussion ensued regarding logistics. November 4 is the last date candidate nominations. Wendy shared it is important for candidates to share bios and interest in the council, ideas for the neighborhood, etc. Candidates will send this information to list serv.

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

- Visit Tag's blog for updates.
- Review of budget on Monday. Difficult budget to navigate right now. Tag put forth an amendment to add another \$73K to going to neighborhood and community centers- early childhood, school age and elderly programming.
- Due to a solution the engineering department came up with, they will be able to run the 'O' buses along S. Randall.
- 1202 S. Park Street development moving forward. Developer identified and will provide affordable housing for families and young people transitioning out of foster care.
- Grocery store progress has been stalled. Many projects are facing increased construction costs and interest rates.
- Jensen Auto moving forward.
- 1403 Regent does not have a liquor license and should not be selling liquor.
- Tag meeting to discuss the city's noise ordinance regarding recent events. Gas powered leaf blowers also present challenges.

7:15 Reports & Committee Updates

- President's Report: Regent Mini-Mart is open. 80% - 90% typical mini mart as well as sushi, fresh fruit. Please do stop in and say hello. Roz shared they are a delightful couple. It's a small business.
- Tacos and Tequila: in location where Benke and Benham- may need to go back and renew liquor license.
- Treasurer's Report: Medical Insurance has new exclusions- war exclusion, communicable disease exclusion and cyber security.
- New donation from new neighbors with wonderful note.
- Detailed review of VNA budget.
- Standing Committees
 - Social Chair: Bethany Nelson- activities will take place around the holidays. Will take time during November meeting to discuss specific activities. Bethany notes that if anyone is interested in taking on donation-focused drive, or Cocoa and Cookies event.
 - Zoning Chairs: Ben Blitz and Wendy Fearnside- Comprehensive Plan Interim Update is scheduled to be at Plan Commission on November 13. No expected date for Common Council at this point. Final text:
<https://madison.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=6380018&GUID=C983F114-1903-49F0-83F1-4205851C2253&Options=ID>
 - Membership Chair: Mary Clare Murphy- notes getting new email and physical addresses are important.
 - Edgewood Chair: Craig Stanley (no update)
 - Transportation Chair: Mike Rewey (Mike's notes)
 - *After a few phone calls to the City Traffic Engineer, finally got a written response on our first four requests.*
 - *Installing a "Yield to Ped" sign at the Southbound Monroe Street right turn onto Little Street should be easy to implement*
 - *Lane movement designations for Southbound Breese Terrace at Regent Street have been installed.*
 - *A permanent solution to right lane running on Monroe Street at activated ped warning crossings (Harrison Street, Van Buren St/S Prospect Ave & Edgewood Avenue) will take time. I am going to do a follow-up with an interim suggestion.*
 - *Reviewing signage where Edgewood Avenue goes into Vilas Park will take some time due to staff constraints.*
 - *Also had an introductory meeting with the new city forester, Ian Brown. It is part of the Streets Division.*
- Liaisons & Appointments
 - Joint Area Campus Committee (JCAC) Appointee: Doug Carlson (no update/meeting tomorrow canceled)
 - Vilas Ink Editor: Bonnie Gruber- November 17 is the deadline for the next issue. Goal to get it online and posted December 1, 2023. Items to include- holidays, election results, events. Doug notes it would be nice to include a photo and article of the rain garden.
 - Bear Mound Park Liaison: Eileen Thompson (no update)
 - Block Captains: Coordinator: Roz Woodward- Roz active in the neighborhood.
 - 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
- Zoo Liaisons: Bonnie Gruber and Ann Rivlin- Zoo had a meeting for neighbors regarding their strategic planning and new building for giraffes. The rhinos will have to move to a new zoo temporarily and will return to new quarters where the giraffes were previously. The new giraffe building will allow visitors to see the animals at their eye level. Discussion for overall accessibility and making everyone feel welcome. Also discussing how to have zookeepers stay so animals can stay out later. More opportunities for public input.

8: or Earlier: Adjourn

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

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