

# VNA Council Meeting Minutes- November 2023

Wednesday, November 15, 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  
Leon Maurer  
Michael Rewey

### 6:33 Call to Order

- Meeting Rules: Please remain on mute unless talking.
- Join the listserv: Send an email to [VilasNA+subscribe@groups.io](mailto:VilasNA+subscribe@groups.io)
- Website: [vilasneighborhood.com](http://vilasneighborhood.com) Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/vilasna>
- Donations: (dues no longer required) <https://www.vilasneighborhood.com/take-action>
- October 25 Meeting Minutes unanimously approved.

### 6:35 Alder Update (Tag Evers, District 13) [www.cityofmadison.com/council/district13/blog/](http://www.cityofmadison.com/council/district13/blog/)

- Wishing everyone well and welcome to all of the new council members.
- Last night the budget was approved- both capital and operating budgets.
- Tag sits on the Finance committee and was able to pass several amendments parking ramps, inflationary increases, community facilities loan program.
- Horizon List- Wingra Triangle is bounded by Fish Hatchery, S. Park and Wingra Drive. Several development projects going in around there, including the Truman Olson Development Project. Important for the children to have a mini park so they don't have to cross dangerous streets such as S. Park.
- Funding for kids who are low income to get drivers education.
- Working with staff to review current noise ordinance. There should be a notification process to the Alders so that neighbors are notified appropriately. In the meantime, Tag encourages you to call the police non-emergency line at 608.255.2345 if you are bothered by a loud party past appropriate timeframes.

### 6:50 Reports & Committee Updates

- President's Report: Doug appreciates everyone's hard work that helped to contribute to such a wonderful year including Pat and block of 1900 Jefferson for the Block Party, Sarah and several others for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July event, thanks to Mike, Sally and Regan for the Back to School Bike Safety event, Samip and friends at 1800 block of Adams, Bethany for the all of the social events, Ben and Wendy for their work on the Zoning Committee, Mike and Sally on Traffic Bike Ped, Bonnie, Wendy and Ann on the Zoo and Vilas Park, Bonnie and her work on Vilas Ink, and Roz and the block captains and Roz's work on the Good Neighbor Digest, Lee and Mary Claire for going through the nominations and ballots process. Thanks to fellow officers Regan and Rachel, Leon helping to upgrade and maintain website and sign investigations, Sarah and book club, and thanks to everyone who have helped revamp the rain garden this summer. There are many others not named here who have helped so much. It is a team effort- thanks to everyone.
- Treasurer's Report: No update.
- Standing Committees
  - Social Chair: Bethany Nelson- Note that map for trick or treating next year. Also thinking about next year, perhaps we should have a table at Boo at the Zoo. Rachel can drop in a line item to remember this for next year. Bethany suggests perhaps neighbors would just be willing to buy an extra bag for the event. Regarding holiday events, maybe try crafting event once again because it did go over well. Regarding the Cookies and Cocoa event, find out if anyone is willing to host and we can go from there regarding scheduling. Regarding the

charity event, there was one organization that was responsive and ask for an Amazon Wish List. People can order from the list directly and donate to this organization. Crafts can also be donated along with any funds are raised. Doug shared that Garth's holiday party could take place on Sunday, December 10 from 12PM-2PM and we could host the event there, but it wouldn't be VNA exclusive. Volunteers to get kids crafts set up and help out welcome.

- Zoning Chairs: Ben Biltz and Wendy Fearnside- interim updates to City Master Plan took place on Monday. We have not fully reviewed the recording as it is four hours but from what we have reviewed there does seem to be a small change. City Staff put in language from LMR (low-medium residential). Vilas neighborhood closer to Randall area has a general LMR density than the LR which is the side near Edgewood is zoned for. There is an enormous amount of flexibility. The impact is unknown. More information regarding Item 3 can be found [here](#). The map can be found [here](#).
- Ben noted that Regent Mart has a request to ALRC for a liquor license change. Doug is going to swing by and check in. Ben also shared they have a really interesting array of inventory.
- Membership Chair: Mary Clare Murphy (no update)
- Edgewood Chair: Craig Stanley (no update)
- Transportation Chair: Mike Rewey (no update)
- Liaisons & Appointments
  - Joint Area Campus Committee (JCAC) Appointee: Doug Carlson (no update)
  - Vilas Ink Editor: Bonnie Gruber- Friday is the deadline for the next issue that will be posted online. Bonnie forecasts an interesting issue with the new Council officers, hoping to get photo of bus, and rain garden to mention a few. If you have something that you'd like to include, please contact Bonnie.
  - Bear Mound Park Liaison: Eileen Thompson (no update)
  - Block Captains Coordinator: Roz Woodward (no update)
  - Listserv Co-Moderators: Brad Ricker and Ankur Desai (no update)
  - VNA Website Webmaster: Leon Maurer- upgrades to website in process.
  - Vilas Park Liaisons: Wendy Fearnside and Ann Rivlin – Parks Division has been busy at the shelter. Hoping the weather cooperates this year!
  - Zoo Liaisons: Bonnie Gruber and Ann Rivlin- plans for the new giraffe house moving forward. Event upcoming. Notice sent via email.
  - Doug takes a moment to thank Wendy and Regan for their time and efforts on the Council.

#### **7:20 Elect via Unanimous Consent Council Members for 2024-2025 Term**

- Doug Carlson, Rachel Bennet, Tommy Johnson, Chris Conrad
- Tommy Johnson did a quick introduction. Excited to be part of the council. He and his family moved here in April 2020. Looking forward to meeting everyone. Rachel revealed that Tommy plays drums for the Packers!
- Bonnie requests a motion to move by unanimous consent the new members for the 2024-2025 term.

#### **7:25 Adjourn; New Council to Executive Session to Elect Officers and Discuss 2024 Schedule**

- The Council re-appointed Doug Carlson as the VNA rep to the Joint Campus Area Committee
- The Council selected the following Officers for 2024:
  - President: Doug Carlson
  - Treasurer: Rachel Bennet
  - Secretary: Tommy Johnson
- 2024 VNA meeting dates (all Wednesdays 6:30-8:00pm):
  - Jan. 24, Feb. 28, Apr. 10, May 22, Jun 26, Jul 24, Aug 28, Sept 25, Oct 23, Nov 20, Dec 18
  - Possible in-person/hybrid meetings May-September and annual meeting Nov. 20.

**Next (final 2023) Meeting Date: Wednesday Dec. 13, 2023 @ 6:30 via Zoom.**