

VNA Council Meeting Agenda - December 2023

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

6:30 p.m. via Zoom

Term Ending 2025

Doug Carlson, President
Rachel Bennett, Treasurer
Tommy Johnson, Secretary
Chris Conrad

Term Ending 2024

Bonnie Gruber
Lee Lazar
Leon Maurer
Michael Rewey

6:30 Call to Order

Chris (new council member) did a quick intro - used to live in the neighborhood and is happy to be back

- 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>
- 11/15 Meeting Minutes unanimously approved

6:35 2024 Meeting Schedule (see below) & Discuss January change from 24th to 17th

Plan to generally keep schedule as 4th Wednesday of the month. Will attempt some outdoor meetings during the summer months (may - september)

Nov & Dec generally move from 4th -> 3rd to avoid holidays. annual meeting Nov. 20.

- Doug proposes to move from 24th -> 17th, Lee's suggestion to cancel if nothing pops up.
 - Will pencil in on the 17th (Doug to send calendar invites)

6:40 Alder Update (Tag Evers, District 13) www.cityofmadison.com/council/district13/blog/

- Tag unable to join but see blog for updates

6:55 Reports & Committee Updates

- President's Report
 - Want to make everyone aware of the VNA archives - more information provided by multiple people recently. VNA Archive box is in the Monroe St. library basement (old Vilas incs, maps, etc.)
 - End of season football meeting - looking forward ticket sales expected to be up next year, noise issues with the first game and but no new issues throughout the year
 - Regent mini mart - looking for change to alcohol license (ALRC Dec. 20) and also conditional use for freestanding vending on event days in parking lot (details TBD)
 - Vilas sign replacement - following discussions from last spring about the broken sign at the mini mart. Grant application will be released in next couple weeks and would be due in ~February. Doug received 2 bids so far (1 around \$2,500). Would also like to do some renovation of the sign by the rain garden on Oakland/Adams but that could we something we get volunteers to help with (more to come in January)
 - Updated directory - last one came out in 2020 (previously 2012). Original thought was to wait another year or two or potentially move online.
 - Thoughts on printed version - Chris saw the 2023 Dudgeon-monroe paper version that is sponsored by Thrivent and would potentially like to mimic that. Doug to check on the budget and how much expense DMA potentially needed

to supply and what our previous version cost. Their version also includes list of businesses and icons for (available for childcare, petcare, odd jobs) which could be nice.

- Rachel - thinking it may help with dwindling donations as a good reminder
- Chris - happy to spearhead the project. Doug mentioned to pair this with Roz's effort on updating membership address list. Bonnie could help getting an estimate from our Vilas Ink printer
- Will plan to get this out in 2024 and get it out on a more regular basis
- Electronic version
 - Mike hesitant for anything online due to issues with facebook group, etc.
 - Ben - important callout that we should be clear on where information will be shared so we don't say it will be printed but also share. Let people make an informed decision
 - No decision here for now
- Treasurer's Report
 - good donation influx out of the holiday party
- Standing Committees
 - Social. Chair: Bethany Nelson
 - Thanks to everyone for help setting up the holiday party.
 - Coming up: Saturday 6:30-9 Cocoa & Cookies. Sunday craft making party at Beth Israel center - opportunity to make items to donate to senior living facility. Bethany has been looking for pairing with a senior living facility to send them or for any ideas on where to send things from VNA Party
 - Book club switching to in-person meetings - recommend others to join
 - Block party is next item and will potentially need a new host
 - Zoning. Chairs: Ben Biltz and Wendy Fearnside
 - Regent mini mart - alcohol license change. We had asked for licenses to be the same as Kwik Trip (allowing 24 oz single serve cans). ALRC dug up old 7/11 restrictions that were more restrictive and applied those instead. Opinion is to align with ALRC as that was what we originally asked for. Doug will reference original vote.
 - Interim update to madison comprehensive plan - went in front of common council and looks like it passed nearly unanimously with no amendments. Done for the time being. Summary points are (no changes in Vilas, yes to some areas around regent street). Will wait for next full update in 5 years
 - Ben will continue to send zoning update emails
 - Neighborhood survey- goal was to start doing this on a regular basis to assess trends. Want to plan for this in early summer. Asking thoughts on density, concerns, traffic, parking, etc.
 - Past surveys available online
<https://www.vilasneighborhood.com/vilas-neighborhood-surveys>

- Doug to work with zoning committee and Craig to get a draft. Mike has some traffic suggestion questions and Lee has thoughts for additions.
 - Desire to keep polling on ADUs as interesting is growing
 - Membership. Chair: Mary Clare Murphy (no update)
 - Edgewood. Chair: Craig Stanley (no update)
 - Transportation. Chair: Mike Rewey
 - Still waiting on responses from the city. Salt route looks okay for our neighborhood
- Liaisons & Appointments
 - Joint Area Campus Committee (JCAC). Appointee: Doug Carlson
 - Information on Shell update - parking stalls under facility, training facility in back. Only concepts and more info to come
 - Changes to campus master plan regarding engineering - move from 2 buildings to one larger and then taller buildings but more green space
 - Vilas Ink. Editor: Bonnie Gruber
 - Suggestion to change standard size of ads in the newsletter. Want to go to standard size of either 2 or 3 column layout to fit more neatly on the page. Doug had suggested raising ad rates and so we could do both together . \$35-105 is potential range of new options. It's been a long time since we've updated
 - Bonnie makes motion to go with proposed standard ad sizes and new prices, Doug seconded. Motion is approved
 - Bear Mound Park. Liaison: Eileen Thompson (no update)
 - Block Captains: Coordinator: Roz Woodward (no update)
 - Listserv. Co-Moderators: Brad Ricker and Ankur Desai
 - ~290 on listserve today
 - Potential to use directory feature but would need to look into that more
 - VNA Website. Webmaster: Leon Maurer (no update)
 - Vilas Park. Liaisons: Wendy Fearnside and Ann Rivlin (no update)
 - Zoo. Liaisons: Bonnie Gruber and Ann Rivlin (no update)

7:45 2024 VNA Budget

- Rachel Bennet, Treasurer and VNA Council (all are welcome to remain and discuss)
- Reviewed budget proposal that Rachel and Doug put together based on '23 projected and actual
- Highlights
 - Newsletter spend ~\$378 more than projected in '23 so budgeting \$1800 for '24
 - Website is unclear if we've paid or not or when the bill comes (think it's \$300 a year)
 - Charitable Donations: like to donate \$250 for good neighbor gathering and \$150 for monroe st. festival. Consideration to donate to Bayview foundation and neighborhood as potential ideas and want placeholder of other options

- Insurance: premium was going to go up by nearly \$1000, Rachel called and found out the \$1400 rate is good for 5 years. They were able to adjust down to \$875 + \$250 for sign
- Parties - holiday party TBD but budgeted \$250 for next year,
- \$300 for miscellaneous to avoid needing to approve each little expense
- Income: estimating \$250 more in ad revenue than last year with proposed changes, donations are down in general. Thoughts on making the budget more visible in a Vilas Ink article to encourage more donations

*Chris volunteered to help with the website and so will connect with Leon on backlog of items and where to help out.

Lee - motion to approve, Chris second. Unanimously approved.

8:01 Adjourn

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

- Jan. 17, 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.