

## VNA Council Meeting Agenda - January 2024

Wednesday, January 17, 2024

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 (absent)  
Leon Maurer  
Michael Rewey

#### 6:30 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>
- Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes from 12/13 completed

#### 6:35 MPD Neighborhood Liaison Update: Officer Jeff Hayes (jhayes@cityofmadison.com)

A couple incidents recently in the neighborhood and questions on how and if those should be reported

Update: Grateful and appreciative for our neighborhood. In terms of overall trends - nothing that the department is seeing as a whole. More concerns tend to be on Monroe in regards to safety and speed. Officer Hayes tends to drive laps and knows that helps as when people see the squad car to slow down.

Not many concerns with burglary, more so neighbor concerns where they play a mediator role.

Recent concerns - no issue that does not deserve their attention (example: hit and run - yes definitely report it) and that helps them understand trends and work on prevention. How to report them - 3 ways to get in touch:

- 1) Dane county dispatch 911 for emergency, non-emergency line 608.255.2345 (same group of people that answer 911, only difference is how it's triaged). If you're not sure, call non-emergency and they can help determine if dispatch is needed.
- 2) Self-report online via city of Madison website : <https://www.cityofmadison.com/police/selfreport/selfreport.cfm> : These will be read and assigned if an officer needs to be involved
- 3) Email Officer Hayes: always an option as well (don't use for emergencies)

Doug: To what extent should neighbors be helping facilitate home video footage?

These can be subpoenaed if it is critical, but Police do not have access to this footage otherwise. It is helpful to know where they are in the neighborhood.

In the event of a disaster - one of the first things done is walking around neighborhood canvassing for cameras. If we're comfortable, very helpful to have a known network of cameras can help speed up the process if it's ever required.

Mike: Discussion regarding Monroe street speeding and historical analysis he's done seeing speeding happening during peak hours especially in the right lane.

Tag: asking regarding if using unmarked cars can be used as well for Monroe speeding in addition to the marked squad car laps. Unmarked squad cars are used as part of T.E.S.T group exactly for this purpose.

Speed board could be helpful on Monroe street but are in short-supply. Officer Hayes will submit a request.

#### **6:55 Vilas Signs Rehab & Replacement Grant Opportunity (Doug Carlson)**

Doug attended a Q&A on Thursday to get some more information. It looks like our project would be a valid case for this: Top portion of Regent and Randall sign is broken and needs replacement. Estimate is ~\$2500. The thought would be to roll this into a larger project including volunteer hours to rehab the other signs

Mike: why not ask for full amount?

Tag: May want to follow up with Linda (who processes these) if we were to ask for full amount, that doesn't disqualify us. We could ask for the full amount and be funded for a lesser amount based on judgment and funds available.

Application will also include letter with Tag's support and same with business owner of the new Regent Mart.

Also requires explicit support of the neighborhood for the project and commitment to funds if needed.

Motion to pass: "The Vilas Neighborhood Association (VNA) supports replacement of the broken Vilas sign at the southwest corner of Regent and Randall. The VNA supports application for a City grant for the full cost of sign replacement (\$2,500)" Unanimously approved

#### **7:07 Alder Update (Tag Evers, District 13) [www.cityofmadison.com/council/district13/blog/](http://www.cityofmadison.com/council/district13/blog/)**

Want to remind and make a suggestion in situations where neighbor is not keeping up with snow removal. <https://www.cityofmadison.com/reportaproblem/> could be used for anonymously filing to give a warning or write a ticket to hopefully change behavior.

Mike: sees biggest problem as student rentals but also on corners being plowed in and feels too much plowing is happening.

- No great way to avoid plowing-in that happens. Tag mostly get complains about not enough plowing and not it's happening too much

Doug: reminders that no parking days on each side of street are used to plow back to the curb so expect more of this to continue to happen

Bonnie: Had great experience with plow driver stopping while she was shoveling and offering to help plow terrace.

Pay increase for alders is on the table- right now around \$13-14 an hour and would like to see moved up to level where lowest paid city employee is (~\$19)

Again reminder to use the report a problem page for future issues

#### **7:21 Reports & Committee Updates**

- President's Report -
  - Doug had breakfast with president of Nakoma association recently. Has good perspective on their association (new within last 5 years) and future path of what development might look like with continued growth
- Treasurer's Report -
  - 2023 donations were down from 2022. 2023 - \$1580 compared to \$2045. Down ~\$500 in 2023 as a whole

- Doug - not collecting dues impacting keeping track of membership so we may need to reassess this
- Standing Committees
  - Social. Chair: Bethany Nelson - no update
  - Zoning. Chairs: Ben Biltz and Wendy Fearnside
    - Starting to discuss 2024 VNA survey. Zoning committee will discuss this in detail during the 2/21 zoning meeting and we can get an update on 2/28
  - 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
    - Bonnie: thanks to Doug for starting to implement standard sizes and prices for ads
    - Doug: started ad solicitations this week
  - 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
    - Chris been helping out here with a number of changes: most notably home page with links to helpful resources
  - Vilas Park. Liaisons: Wendy Fearnside and Ann Rivlin - no update
  - Zoo. Liaisons: Bonnie Gruber and Ann Rivlin - no update

### 7:35 General topics

#### Vilas directory

Chris took data from last version and is importing into a spreadsheet. Started cross referencing against city assessor's page and also realized that we're missing all rental properties which would be nice to add in.

Doug - thinks issue with rental may be the fact that the directory is for members and those people are less likely to be a member of the neighborhood association.

### 7:41 Adjourn

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

- 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.