



City of Madison

City of Madison
Madison, WI 53703
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Meeting Minutes - Draft NORTHPORT-WARNER PARK-SHERMAN NEIGHBORHOOD STEERING COMMITTEE

Thursday, November 6, 2008

6:30 PM

St. Paul Lutheran Church
2126 North Sherman Avenue, Rear Entrance

1 CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Present: 11 -

Lydia S. Maurer; Pat Steele; Benjamin C. Cashin; Karen M. Thompson;
Thomas C. Blake; Jolena K. Presti; Anita C. Herrera; Jeffrey E. Shokler;
Mary Schumacher; Betty L. Thompson and Julie A. Savidusky

Absent: 2 -

Jenifer L. Carter and Jacqueline M. Wilson

Excused: 6 -

Lorie A. Walker; Cynthia M. Wood; Paul J. Van Rooy; Donald B. Bruns;
Jamie P. Gratrix and Edward (Ted) T. Krez

City Alderpersons and Staff Present: Satya Rhodes-Conway, District 12; Archie Nicolette, Linda Horvath, Dave Kress, Hallie Bennett.

2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Shokler, seconded by Schumacher, to Approve the October 23 Minutes. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

3 ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The 2008 Neighborhood Roundtable is this Saturday, November 8 at the Warner Park Community Recreation Center, 8am-12:15pm. This event is free of charge.
- The Northside Planning Council Economic Development Forum will take place this Monday November 10, 6:30pm-8:30pm at the Warner Park Community Recreation Center.

4 PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

5 [12531](#) SCHOOLS & COMMUNITY SERVICES

Wendy Sauve from the East Attendance Area Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) attended the meeting and gave a presentation on the current issues facing Northside schools. The SC posed questions and raised concerns about Northside schools.

The highest concern of the East Attendance Area PTO is kids in poverty. The group developed an equity statement to change the resource allocation among schools. There is also an Equity Task Force, which advocates for and helps to implement changes to resource allocation. Action steps for January will include advocating for school funding reform before any school closings are proposed.

Questions

- What are the demographics of Northside schools? Projected attendance is down; size of school and minority attendance fluctuates. Lakeview is over capacity.
- Where will students from new residential development on the Northside attend school? Is there a way to influence where new residents will attend school? MMSD is responsible for determining the districts. Recommendations can be made to either influence or express certain desires of the neighborhood pertaining to student attendance.
- How are donations to schools allocated or distributed in the district? What are the parameters/rules for the distribution of funds and donations? Is there or could there be a parameter that donations from neighborhood residents, businesses, community organizations go directly to that neighborhood's school?
- What is the relationship between schools and subsidized housing? Mayor's economic plan cited as source of this connection.
- How are community centers connected to schools? They function almost as an extension or supplement to school programs.

Concerns and Comments:

- More after school/before school childcare is needed.
- Trade or exchange of students from one area to another is a tactic used to achieve balance of socioeconomic diversity in schools. This method of shuffling and moving boundaries can be disruptive to students and inconvenient for students/families.
- Neighborhood schools on the Northside are an excellent amenity; they are friendly and there is a great presence of advocacy for students in the schools.
- Three key aspects of a successful school/education system were identified:
 - Parent involvement
 - Small class size
 - Better training of teachers
- Lack of resources and inadequate training of ESL Teachers and Staff is a problem.
- Specific types of programs (ESL, high school programs) are lacking or understaffed.

Ideas and Recommendations:

- Encourage partnerships between schools and neighborhood businesses and community organizations to include donations of equipment such as computers, financial assistance and employee volunteers.
- Work with community organizations such as North/Eastside Senior Coalition and others to facilitate senior volunteer opportunities at the schools.
- Expand, support, and create new youth programs that have a recreational focus with a community service slant, especially for middle school and high school aged kids.
- Create after and before school programs to include childcare.

- Create safer routes to school in coordination with transportation and neighborhood and personal safety recommendations.
- Expand and diversify the East Attendance Area PTO.
- Explore creating a workshop program for MATC students to redevelop/redesign areas of the Northside.
- Create a partnership with area job centers to train people to work within neighborhood schools including staff for cafeterias, maintenance, crossing/safety guards, lunch workers and school security; and advertise school job training and volunteer opportunities at job centers.
- Create a partnership with the Time Bank and neighborhood schools to enhance school programs.

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VISION AND GOALS

GROUP ONE

Vision Statement

- Too long - needs to be short and powerful.
- Should reflect the green/outdoors/healthy image for the northside continually discussed by the Steering Committee.

Land Use Goals

- We have discussed down-zoning for certain areas, this should be reflected in the goals or strategies.
- There should be an emphasis on owner-occupied units.
 - Discourage owner-occupied becoming rental.
 - Balance in housing is crucial, and we already have our fair share of multi-family/rental properties on the Northside.
- Better management of rental residential units is a major concern.

Redevelopment Goals

- Nature/environment should be incorporated in this goal somehow.

Urban Design Goals

- “Branding” as an urban design strategy.
 - “Outside Madison”; “Open Air”.
 - This may take shape in the form of outdoor furniture, activities, etc.

Community Facilities, Services and Programming Goals

- Increase funding for existing programs.
 - Evaluate each program to determine which are deserving of additional funding.
- Accountability and empowerment in these programs.

GROUP TWO

Neighborhood Engagement and Involvement Goals

- Add how community is created through neighborhood and resident involvement.
- Go beyond the term “diversity” and expand to include the valued presence of different heritage, cultures, and distinct characteristics of the Northside’s population.
- Expand to include the cohesiveness of the community and the need for encouragement and involvement of the different groups to create community unity.

Natural Resources, Parks, and Open Space Goals

- State that the Steering Committee supports and encourages sustainability, sensitivity to the natural environment; community seeks to minimize environmental and consumption impacts.
- Fully represent Conservationists and Environmentalists.

Transportation Goals

- Add that all members of the community will have access to safe and efficient transport.
- Add buses and transit to third bullet point.
- Add a reference to linkages to larger city transit systems.
- Change wording from efficient to “provide *convenient* transit routes”.
- Develop and clarify future transit route options to guide long-term land use and future land use decisions.

Business and Commerce Goals

- Addition to opening statement, “Residents are interested in ensuring the continued economic vitality ...
- Northside *Community* should be used instead of Neighborhood (seems more inclusive).
- Make sure that wording (in the second bullet point of section) does not exclude larger business attraction to area; include employers in this statement.

Safety- Neighborhood and Personal Goals

- Include Neighborhood Associations and Community Organizations in the list of groups involved in safety in the first goal statement.
- Add the need to develop strategies to promote the Northside as a safe, friendly, vibrant community for residents to live and work.

Transportation Strategies

- Explore options/possibilities for improvements (aesthetic and otherwise) of black top/asphalt surfaces (staff to ask Traffic Engineering how the recently re-surfaced N. Sherman might be retrofitted to incorporate recommendations such as colored pavement).
- Possibility of changing stretch of Northport between Packers and International to a smaller, neighborhood street (See Ben’s Concept).

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PLANNING PROCESS STATUS

“Branding” Exercise

Possible Ideas

- Grassroots leadership
- North star
- Triangles

Qualities of Northside/Northsiders

- Nature, earthy, grounded
- “Busy-bodies”
- Creative
- “Foodies” - urban agriculture, community gardening, etc.

- Stability
 - Steady, long-staying owner-occupied and rental residents
 - Look out for each other
 - Generation X and its relationship with grandparents - connection to northside housing stock

Comparisons from Popular Culture, Corporations, etc.

- REI, Fontana
 - Upscale
 - Nature, earthy, grounded
- Trek Bicycles
 - Synthesis between cutting edge and hard-working
 - Connected social fabric
- Peter Pan/Tinkerbell
 - Timeless, lost world, magical realm
- Paul Newman
 - Connected to natural environment, earthy and wholesome
- Top Chef and Home Improvement Shows
 - Busy bodies, creative people, design-oriented.
 - Farmer's Market, Community Supported Agriculture, but not many restaurants.

Final Thoughts

- "Mayberry with mountain bikes"

8 NEXT STEPS

November 20 Agenda

- Preliminary Strategies
- Report out from NPC on Transportation and Economic Development Forums
- Guest speakers from area groups such as the Friends of Lakeview Hill County Park and others SC has not heard from yet.

9 CHECKOUT

10 ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Thompson, seconded by Cashin, to Adjourn. The motion passed by voice vote/other.