



City of Madison

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

Thursday, September 25, 2008

6:00 PM

Warner Park Community Recreation Center
1625 Northport Dr., Community Room 1

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Present: 11 -

Lydia S. Maurer; Pat Steele; Benjamin C. Cashin; Madeline Scherb; Paul J. Van Rooy; Karen M. Thompson; Thomas C. Blake; Jolena K. Presti; Jeffrey E. Shokler; Mary Schumacher and Julie A. Savidusky

Absent: 3 -

Jenifer L. Carter; Jacqueline M. Wilson and Anita C. Herrera

Excused: 9 -

Lorie A. Walker; Cynthia M. Wood; Pacia J. Harper; Donald B. Bruns; Kathryn L. Rasmussen; Jamie P. Gratrix; Betty L. Thompson; John M. Wheeler and Edward (Ted) T. Krez

City Alderpersons and Staff: Satya Rhodes-Conway (District 12); Michael Schumacher (District 18); Jule Stroick; Archie Nicolette; Linda Horvath; Hallie Bennett; Dave Kress. (Planning & Community & Economic Development).

Others: Michael Stumpf, Dolroes Kester, Julie Spears, Bill Bauer.

2. APPROVAL OF September 11 MINUTES

A motion was made by Thompson, seconded by Cashin, to Approve the September 11 Minutes. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Apple Fest, sponsored by Northeast Senior Coalition, Thursday September 18 through Sunday September 21 at the Warner Park Community Recreation Center.
- Fifteenth anniversary of Northside Planning Council on Friday October 10 at the Warner Park Community Recreation Center, 5:00pm.
- 2008 Mayor's Neighborhood Roundtable on Saturday November 8 from 8:00am to noon at the Warner Park Community Recreation Center.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

5. Introductions of new Steering Committee Members (15 minutes)

Three new Steering Committee members introduced themselves and identified the neighborhoods they will represent.

8. [12090](#)

Transportation Issues

An aerial map showing locations of traffic safety issues identified by the SC and the Public Health Walking Audit project was presented.

Northport-Knutson Intersection

- Topography creates sightline concerns pulling out from Knutson Dr.
- Reduced speed would be desirable near Knutson Dr. - many speeding issues as drivers enter/exit the area.

Northport-Kennedy Intersection

- Pedestrians, particularly students, have difficulty crossing at this intersection.
- Addition of bus amenities (benches, shelter, etc.) would be desirable.

Northport-School Intersection

- Safety concerns with pedestrian underpass - lack of visibility a major issue.

Northport-Troy Intersection

- Existing free-flow right turn unsafe - allows for higher vehicle speed.
- Appearance improvements would be useful here.
- Important to consider the relationship between nearby parks (Warner and Lakeview Hill), potential pool, and bike system.

Northport-Warner Park Entrance Intersection

- Left hand turns in/out of Warner Park are challenging.
- Crossing Northport Dr. at this location is difficult for pedestrians.

Northport-Sherman Intersection

- Existing free-flow right turn unsafe - allows for higher vehicle speed.

- Traffic light signaling and lane designation can cause confusion for drivers and pedestrians alike.
- Sharp right turn from Sherman Ave. onto Northport Dr. eastbound makes safety/congestion issues arise.

Northport-Northside Town Center Entrance Intersection

- Competition between motor vehicles and pedestrians.
- Steep grade change between street level and parking level raises safety concerns.

General Transportation Comments/Discussion

- Location of bus stops should be assessed in relation to where people are going.
- Configuration at Sherman Ave. and Aberg Ave. a growing safety concern. High incidence of red-light running.
- Northport-Packers intersection needs improvements.
- Two-lane traffic in each direction on Northport Dr. would make the street less hostile for pedestrians, especially those living adjacent to Northport Dr.
- Taking a holistic approach to traffic issues is important as well, especially in light of the planned North Mendota Parkway and expected growth in traffic volume.
- Do not see added value in street parking; may negatively impact snow removal and who would want to park along Northport anyway when there is adequate surface parking at adjacent apartments and the Northside Town Center.
- Is it possible for a striped "double-lane" sidewalk that may be used by bikers and pedestrians?
- Consider whether reducing lanes on Northport Drive will increase traffic volume on residential streets.
- Larger medians are nice for safety (allows cars and pedestrians to cross halfway) issues and they also provide more green space.
- Left turns along Sherman Ave. corridor are difficult.
- Consider location of existing bike lanes/paths when discussing adding to the system.
- Can you have a median and a dedicated bike/pedestrian path along Sherman Ave. - must we choose one or the other?
- Width of existing larger medians on Northport Dr. are useful for partial traffic crossing.
- Safety concerns about biking on bike lane vs. bike path - feel that on-street bike lanes would be unsafe for child use. Although, higher volumes of bikers using the lanes will make the area safer as motorists will become more accustomed to seeing them on the roads and will learn to drive more cautiously.
- How would buses maneuver with bike lanes? pull away from curb and drive across bike lanes?
- Would it be possible to add safety barriers, such as on University

Ave., for bike lanes?

- Is there a priority or preference for locating bike lanes/routes on primary streets versus secondary streets?
- What is the “Sherman Flyer”?
- Is there a possibility of a bike/pedestrian connection to the North Transfer Point (through Oscar Mayer site)?
- More bike and pedestrian activity along Northport Dr. may actually serve as a traffic calming measure.
- Berkley Oaks bike path is currently not being used for “commuter” biking - only recreational uses, particularly by people visiting the area.
- How do bus stops and bike lanes coincide?

6. [12087](#) Northside Market Study

Michael Stumpf, RA Smith National, presented an overview of Northside Market Study findings and answered questions from the Steering Committee. He offered to send his Powerpoint presentation to those who are interested.

Comments, Questions and Responses:

Question: Is there data to support comment that slower traffic leads to more frequenting of businesses?

Response: Depends on the business. If the traffic moves so quickly that drivers cannot see business signs, this is certainly a problem.

Comment: Regarding Warner Park Community Recreation Center, suggest adding batting cages, mini-golf, pool hall.

Comment: Presentation included comments that WPCRC does not create much economic impact on area. Think this is a mistake. WPCRC is a huge draw for people.

Response: But how much economic impact will people using WPCRC generate? In general, restaurant business in evenings amounts to a very small proportion of total sales so people going to Northside restaurants in the evenings are adding some, but not much to overall sales. Area restaurants are missing necessary volume of daytime (lunch crowd) business to have much impact.

Question: Do MATC students contribute much to the Northside economy?

Response: Very little impact in this area since most drive in for classes and leave right away afterwards.

7. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

9. [09720](#) Land Use

Referred to October 7 Steering Committee meeting.

10. [10062](#) Planning Process Status

 Referred to October 7 Steering Committee meeting.

11. [11976](#) Open Meetings Law and Public Records Law

 Referred to October 7 Steering Committee meeting.

12. **Next Steps**

 Agenda for Steering Committee meeting, Tuesday October 7, at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 2126 N. Sherman Avenue, 6:30 p.m.

13. **Checkout**

14. **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Presti, seconded by Schumacher, to Adjourn at 8:30 p.m. The motion passed by voice vote/other.