

Emerson East Neighborhood Association
Wednesday, May 4, 2016
Minutes

Present: Indira Ceylan, Amanda Duesterbeck, Joel Gratz (chair), Nancy Griswold, Chris Heaton, Barb Jenkin, John Koch (secretary), Derek McRoberts, Gail Piper, Erin Sommerfeld, Anita Temple, Wes Webendorfer; Guest: Alder Larry Palm

April Minutes: John forgot to bring copies and approval was deferred to next meeting.

Public Safety Issues: 1) Aggressive dogs at the corner of Upham and Fifth got loose and attacked Diane Farsetta's dog as she was walking it; others have reported issues with these dogs. Diane has filed a complaint. The owners have since fortified their fence. 2) There have been cases of hit-and-run incidents involving parked cars reported on Nextdoor. It is possible that this is less an increase in the number of incidents than greater awareness of them through Nextdoor and other social media. 3) Erin reports two incidents of almost being hit while in the crosswalk at First and E. Johnson. She checked into the pedestrian flag program that is used on Monroe street and other busy intersections. A requirement of the program is that someone check the flags daily. Gail volunteered to follow up, but suggested that the flags be at the unsignalized crosswalk at First and E. Dayton. 4) There continue to be incidents of delivery boxes being taken off front porches and the contents stolen.

By-Laws Review: The By-Laws Review Committee presented several proposals: 1) That the Geographical Area description in Article III be revised to match the city's description of our boundaries, 2) that the membership year specified in Article IV be changed from the calendar year to the month of the elections meeting (usually October) through the month preceding the month of the elections meeting, 3) that Article V be changed to create an Executive Committee consisting of the Co-Chairs, Secretary and Treasurer that would be able to make decisions on behalf of the Association between meetings, to be reported at the next meeting, 4) that Article VIII be changed from "Committees" to "Committees and Positions," to include such volunteer positions as Newsletter Editor, Website Administrator, Community Garden Coordinator and Social Media Coordinator, to be appointed on an annual basis preferably a month after the elections meeting, 5) that Article IV, Section 3 be changed to remove the requirement that annual dues must be paid before a member can vote at a meeting; and 6) that references to the Association and the format of numbers be standardized throughout the by-laws. By-laws amendments must be noticed seven days before a meeting and pass with a 2/3 vote. Specific wording will be brought to the June meeting, with a view to voting at the August meeting. We will consider making dues voluntary on a trial basis, and discuss what membership means and what information we want from members at our next meeting.

Yard Sale Day: Indira will create map and see that it is posted on web site. John will make arrow signs, and place ad in Capitol Newspapers and Craigslist. Amanda will coordinate distribution of maps and arrow signs.

Alder's Report: 1) Immediate plans for the public market have shifted from the Fleet Services building to the Washington Plaza (old "Fiore") shopping center, which may be demolished to make way for a new building with the market on the first floor and other undetermined uses on the upper floors. Larry suggested that the new building could be in the current parking lot, nearer to East Washington, with the parking in the rear. There is a proposal to widen First St. dramatically to add new turn lanes; the land would come from the current parking lot. 2) The proposal for a health club in one of the old warehouses on Packers Avenue seems low-impact and noncontroversial. 3) The green space at First and E. Johnson ("No Name Park") is officially Pennsylvania Park. It is not suitable for community gardens. The old house will be torn down this summer. Using its water service to provide a water fountain involves city-wide issues of equity and priority. Perhaps putting in a pipe for a future water fountain is all that we can do at this point. Gail suggested additional amenities that could be added, such as a sign identifying it as Pennsylvania Park, a kiosk, and a bench. It also might be a good place for a new neighborhood sign. 4) There is a map on the city's web site showing which areas are scheduled for ash tree removal in which year. You can also contact the City Forester in the Parks Department for information. Madison has been proactive in ordering replacement trees; we should have a good supply for the next five years.

Treasurer's Report: We have about \$1500 in the bank.

Sustainability Task Force: Anita has Monarch Way Station plaques that can be installed at Demetral.

Monthly Social: April's was poorly attended, perhaps due to competition from the Wisconsin Film Festival. There was not enough room at the Tip Top, and acoustics were poor. The next one will be back at Dexter's, on the third Tuesday at 6:00 pm.