

Emerson East Neighborhood Association
Wednesday, November 2, 2016
Draft Minutes

Present: Tim Cordon, Amanda Duesterbeck, Pete Haney, Chris Heaton (chair), Barb Jenkin, John Koch (acting secretary), Jessica LeClair, Gail Piper, Doug Renk, Adrienne Sella, Tracey Teodecki, Wes Webendorfer; Guests: Becky Halpin-Beck (Bashford Liaison), Officer Molly Thompson, MPD

October Minutes: John noted that the minutes should be corrected to include Barb Jenkin's election as At-Large Rep. Amanda moved and Barb seconded approval as corrected. Passed. Doug noted that the last sentence in the discussion of Nextdoor should be corrected to indicate that he would solicit input on how to use Nextdoor as a community-building tool, rather than that he would post an invitation. Amanda moved and Wes seconded approval as further corrected. Passed.

Police Report: Theft of packages from porches is happening all over the city. A high school student was identified through a video of a theft on the 2500 block of E. Mifflin St. The case is still open. Often, it is difficult to prove theft, even if the case seems obvious. Even thefts of low-value items should be reported. Juveniles are often given an option of a restorative justice process in which repair of the damage leads to no lasting record. A suspect in the battery incident on Hoard St. about four months ago has been identified, but no charges have been filed as the victim was not able to provide enough detail about the incident and there were no other witnesses. The problem house in the 2300 block of Hoard St is now vacant.

Oscar Mayer: Pete reported that the plant is unlikely to close completely until March or June. Oscar Mayer was a major water user, and loss of this revenue may mean a rise in water utility rates across the city. The wells on the property have probably been capped, and are not considered an issue. The property is zoned heavy industrial. The current buildings seem so specific to meat-packing that adaptive reuse is unlikely, and historic preservation as not been part of the conversation.

Membership Year: Our new October – September membership year seems to provide no clear time to start a membership drive. Since we will be distributing flyers soon, we will include a pitch for membership on them.

Social Media: Our recent discussion about Nextdoor suggests that we should consider how we should use social media in general. A committee consisting of Chris, Doug, Derek McRoberts, Jessica, Adrienne, Tim, and anyone else interested was formed, and we will add this issue to our January agenda.

Pennsylvania Park: Our December meeting will concentrate on the future of Pennsylvania Park, and we will distribute flyers inviting people to come. Tim and Jessica will facilitate the meeting. The Parks Department will start working on a master plan for the park, which will indicate what the real possibilities are. In the meantime, we should identify what value the park should offer: just greenspace, an opportunity for art, a resting place connected to the public market, a place to engage in exercise, or any thing else that can be made to fit into the master plan when it is completed.

Crossing Flags: Gail was finally able to get in touch with David Dryer of Traffic Engineering. The city will install the flag boxes at First and E. Dayton, although Dryer argued that First and E. Mifflin would be better. A flyer is needed to alert neighbors to the flags and to invite them to a training session on how to use them. Adrienne will put together a flyer that includes an invitation to the December meeting on Pennsylvania Park, information about the crossing flags, a membership form, and whatever other information can fit. Amanda moved and Jessica seconded that we spend up to \$200 on producing the flyer. Passed.

Positions: In accordance with our new procedures for filling volunteer positions, the Steering Committee made the following appointments: Newsletter Editor, Indira Ceylan; Website Editor, Chris Heaton; Facebook Page Manager; Adrienne Sella; Dayton St. Flag Manager, Gail Piper; Nextdoor Lead, Doug Renk; Parks Coordinators, leave open until next meeting; Social Night Coordinator, Amanda Duesterbeck; Arts Coordinator, Diane Farsetta was nominated; Jessica is interested on the Carey Court mural

Membership: We will put the idea of sending welcome letters for new members on next meeting's agenda. We will plan to send out membership renewal reminder emails in advance of our October meeting.

Announcements: East High has been named a National AVID Demonstration School. The school district is forming a Multicultural Parents Group. Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice will hold a Neighborhoods for Justice meeting 11/9.