



Historic Water Tower Neighborhood

OFFICERS

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Jeff Bentoff

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Dawn McCarthy

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Joe Libnoch

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Dawn McCarthy

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Thea Kovac

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TRUSTEES

Area 1

(LaFayette Pl. to North Ave.)

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Larry Presberg

Area 2

(North Ave. to Newberry Blvd.)

Michael Barna

David Brust

Maria Costello

Lloyd Dickenson

Barbara Elsner

Angela Jacobi

Jeff Jordan

Bunkie Miller

Pat Small

Area 3

(Newberry Blvd. to Edgewood Ave.)

Camilla Avery

Mark Falci

Jennifer Runquist

Eric Waldron

MINUTES

Board of Trustees Meeting

January 6, 2010

Marcia Coles Community Room

Lake Park Pavilion

Historic Water Tower Neighborhood wishes to thank Bartolotta's for supplying refreshments.

Meeting called to order 7:10 p.m.

Absent/Excused: Michael Barna, David Brust, Maria Costello, Barbara Elsner, Angela Jacobi, Pat Small, Camilla Avery, Eric Waldron

Guest Speakers: State Sen. Jeff Plale and State Rep. Jon Richards

STATE SENATOR PLALE gave a brief introduction of recent issues, including the fact that he is sponsoring historic rehabilitation tax credit legislation (SB-55) to benefit homeowners in historic districts.

UWM: Senator Plale wants to see UWM get the recognition it deserves and is sponsoring legislation to increase money for research, including money for fresh water research.

He sees that the premier academic institutions in Milwaukee are becoming more cooperative and are working together collaboratively. Milwaukee needs to develop engineers.

MPS: Senator Plale agrees with mayoral control of Milwaukee Public Schools. Though controversial, the proposed legislation has changed the debate: the government has made it a priority to address the racial achievement gap. (Milwaukee's is the largest in the nation.) Senator Plale cited research conducted by Professor Kenneth Wong (Brown) supporting mayoral control of urban school districts and saying that Boston should serve as the model, with strong powers for the mayor, and not watered down powers, as in Detroit, which is failing.

Jobs: Milwaukee should create a niche with Green jobs.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE JON RICHARDS described recent legislation that he supported, including passing the smoking ban and changing the student behavior code. He said he agrees with de-centralizing UWM and building satellite campuses for UWM.

Milwaukee County Parks: Bradford Beach received Blue Wave Certification from the Clean Beach Council. Otherwise, there is a huge backlog of park maintenance. Richards said that we can maintain our parks AND control property taxes. He said he favors of reduced property taxes and increased sales tax to support the park system.

MPS: State Representative Richards said he favors mayoral control. The school district is failing; too many kids are being left behind.

Transit: Transit is an ongoing issue and he is continuing to work on that.

Q&A with State Sen. Jeff Plale and State Rep. Jon Richards

Q: Is the private/public partnership, Bartolotta's burger stand for instance, working in the county parks?

JR: Yes, but there are not enough investors. Lake Park has a great advantage.

JP: Given the state of the parks, it is harder to get investors.

Q/Comment: It's important to keep the parks' aesthetic quality.

JR: It's important to get it right. The domes are a good example.

JP: South Shore is a good opportunity.

Q: Historic rehabilitation tax credit?

JP: The proposed Tax Credit Legislation (SB-55) makes the state tax credit similar to the federal tax credit. Call Colon, Taylor, Grigsby and tell them that the tax credit is a good incentive.

Q: Transit?

JR: A contributing problem is that the Milwaukee system is funded by property tax. Milwaukee is the only large urban system funded by property tax.

Q: What about the headline in the news about selling the parks?

JR: We shouldn't go down that road. Sue Black's solution is to let some of the park land go wild.

JP: Selling park land is a one time funding source and government has to be careful with one time funding sources.

Q: What about volunteerism in the parks?

JR: Lake Park Friends is a good example, but ultimately there is too much work for volunteers. With the current budget we are spending less now to maintain the parks than we did in the 50's.

Q: MPS and mayoral control legislation?

JR: Hopes for a vote before the end of the month, but there will have to be compromise in the proposed legislation.

Business meeting called to order:

- 1) **Minutes:** Sandra McSweeney moved and Adrienne Houck seconded a motion to approve the minutes. The motion carried.
- 2) **Treasurer's Report:** See Officer reports below.
- 3) **President's Report**

MEMBER INTRODUCTIONS at the January 2010 meeting, a summary:

We learned that

- Two members are crazy about music. One member plays the harmonica, when he is alone.
- One member likes acid rock (and it's not Jeff Bentoff).
- One member is on the Dance Works Board. Another member, who is a visual artist, danced with the "Yes We Can Can" Dancers in the Labor Day Parade.
- One member works in Design and is a project manager.
- Two members teach chemistry. One is at MCW and the other is at MATC.
- We had two member doctors in attendance. One is semi-retired and does volunteer work, the other plays in a band.
- One member is crazy about movies and sees at least 3 a week.
- Two members introduced themselves as Grandmothers. One has a son adopting 4 sisters from Columbia.
- One of our newest members lived in Columbia, and promised to bring candy for Valentine's Day.
- Another member is fluent in Spanish.
- One member introduced himself as an attorney, married to an attorney.
- One member is a business consultant.
- One member is a cross country skier and bikes.
- One member has been to the last 4 Olympics.
- One member introduced himself as "young" with children, living in a block with 35 children, and in need of a babysitter.
- One member is active at the North Point Light House and is the father of a daughter who babysits.
- Many members are volunteers.
- One member is on the board of the Friends of the Gold Meir Library.
- Possibly the youngest member, and our COAST representative, is starting an internship at Miller Park

2010 COMMITTEES

Jeff Bentoff talked about the important work that HWTN committees do. Please let him know if you would like to volunteer. The president appoints committees and the board of trustees approves the committees.

Some of the committees are:

Buildings & Zoning (The Downer Avenue Merchants Association liaison will become a part of this committee.)

Historic Preservation: This is a new committee and is important based on the mission of our neighborhood association and its origins. Founders of the neighborhood association got the area designated as historic in order to be able to take advantage of historic rehabilitation tax credits.

Membership: Thea Kovac is Vice President of Membership and will chair the committee.

Communications: Website, Facebook & Twitter

Special Events: Joe Libnoch is Vice President of Events. The annual holiday party is the key event for the neighborhood association.

Executive Committee: This committee is comprised of the officers and the immediate past-president.

3DNA/UNA: This is the 3rd District Neighborhood Association and (UWM) University Neighborhood Association. Jeff Jordan is our representative and is the Chair of 3DNA.

We need someone to attend Police District meetings and it would be good to have a HWTN liaison with one or more of the park associations.

2010 Monthly Programs

Jeff would like there to be a program every month. Some program ideas so far are:

- How to research your historic home at the Milwaukee Public Library
- An Eastside Postcard Power Point presentation
- East Side architecture
- A forum on Milwaukee County Parks
- A case history on Vista Pruning

4) **Officer Reports**

Treasurer's Report: Mike Benton reported before handing over treasurer responsibilities to Adrienne Houck. He reported that HWTN funds are increased, after receiving membership renewals. HWTN has 2 CDs that are maturing at the end of January and will need to be reinvested.

V.P. of Events: Adrienne Houck reported on the Holiday Party. The cost of the party was a little more than money received. Most members responding to the survey said that the cost was appropriate and most hoped to return to Villa Terrace.

5) **Committee Reports**

3DNA: Jeff Jordan: 3DNA is hosting an Alternative Education Panel at the Urban Ecology Center on February 23rd at 7:00 p.m.

6) **New Business**

Mercy Housing is in conversation with the city regarding constructing housing in the parking lot to the north of U.S. Bank. The Buildings Committee will follow up and report when there is more information available.

7) Sandra McSweeney moved to adjourn, and Dawn McCarthy seconded. Motion carries. Meeting adjourned 8:50pm.

Minutes submitted by Dawn McCarthy, Recording Secretary.