

## MINUTES

Walnut Grove Homes Association  
Board of Directors  
June 14, 2015, 4:00pm,  
E&G Lewandowski Home, 7117 Farmington way, Madison WI

Present: Eric Lewandowski, Mark Schmitt, Karen Kollath, Gabe Anibas, Denise Clearwood, Kathy McComb; Gina Lewandowski (acting as secretary at the request of the Board); Absent: Tina Hogle (proxy provided by phone to Eric Lewandowski), Kathy Raab.

The meeting was called to order at 4:08pm, and a quorum was established.

Motion to approve the April 26, 2015 minutes, as corrected, was made, seconded and unanimously approved. Kathy Raab will submit to Tina for posting on the website. Corrections: next meeting date changed from June 26, as originally noted, to June 14.

### SPECIAL ACTION: Election of New Board Member/Block Captains Coordinator

Eric acknowledged the Board opening caused by the vacancy created by Eileen Goode's resignation and presented statements of interest/candidacy from Kelly Chambers and Sandy Olson. After reading the statements and a lengthy discussion, a vote was taken of members present, plus Tina's proxy, and Kelly Chambers was elected. Eric said he would call both candidates, and work with Tina and Kathy McComb on briefing Kelly about his role, and on ways to announce the election.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

#### President's Report:

- Area Safety and Security: Eric reported on recent acts of gun violence across the city, noting especially the shooting on Colony Circle on Saturday, May 9, which resulted in a resident being hospitalized. He said that he and Alder Skidmore had been working with the Madison Police Department to obtain more information on suspects and motives, but that the MPD was operating on the premise that the incidents, including Colony Circle, were gang-related, but not directed at any neighborhood residents. He also said that Chief Koval had announced the arrests of seven suspects, none of whom had been linked directly to the crimes, and had noted that gun violence has dropped precipitously since the arrests. Eric said that posting notices on the WGHA listserv, on NextDoorMadison, and via the WGHA Newsletter had been useful and also had generated considerable feedback. He observed that this feedback took the form of comments trending along two lines: (1) requests for information and expressions of interest in enhanced neighborhood safety/security measures, and (2) comments about addressing potential future violence in light of identifying root causes and possible remedies via wider public action. A lengthy discussion followed with several Board members cautioning against hasty action or future communications suggesting a particular Board position on the issues. Eric noted that Alder Skidmore had been organizing a limited area leadership meeting at Tamarack that had been cancelled in favor of a number of public forums, one of which is to be held at Memorial HS from 6:00-7:30pm on June 24, sponsored by the MPD, with Chief Koval and MPD officers presenting. Eric also met with Pastor Charlie Berthoud of Covenant Presbyterian Church, a Colony Dr. resident to discuss possible wider approaches.

- Related to the safety and security and neighborhood/city communications issues, a discussion of traffic calming ensued. Various considerations about speed bump and traffic island measures, such as had previously been proposed for Westfield Road and Farmington Way were raised. The Board directed Eric to write Alder Skidmore to (1) determine what traffic-related measures the City was considering for Walnut Grove and (2) encourage the City, through Alder Skidmore, to actively engage the neighborhood in any impending discussion(s).
- Proposed 7933 Tree Lane Development Project Update: Although Eric reported at the April 26 meeting that the project officially did not receive funding and was not going to proceed, he subsequently learned unofficially that City Planning still is considering siting a subsidized housing facility on the West Side. He said that he had attempted to obtain more information from City Planning, but currently has not received a response, and would follow up with Alder Skidmore, City Planning, again, and, if necessary, the Mayor's office to obtain more information.

Treasurer's Report: Karen reported that WGHA annual dues collections have continued, but that an accurate report would not be available until the next regular Board meeting when the new software is running. Karen continues to work with the Wynns to reconcile their reimbursement of undocumented expenses from past social events and unpaid dues in light of the Board's April 26 authorization to provide up to \$400 to settle accounts. Karen pointed out the inability of the new accounting software to incorporate historical data from the system inherited from Tom Wall and asked if historical data needed to be maintained on a unified accounting system. Discussion followed and a general determination was reached to (1) not attempt to incorporate historical data into a unified new system, but to continue to retain it on the old system which could be accessed independently, and (2) starting in 2015 and going forward to maintain new data on the new software. Eric reported that he has not heard from the out-of-state title company about slippage on the lien levied against Lot #38 (14 Round Hill Circle, formerly owned by Bryan Dunham and Sharon Ross-Boggs, and currently owned by Chad and Kelly Lawler), which Tom and Eric decided needed to be liquidated. Eric will pursue possible recovery with the title company and through the City, on the basis of title insurance previously carried on the property.

Greenways Report: Gabe reported volunteers participating in two additional clean up sessions this Spring on Greenway D, one dealing with garlic mustard, the other with weed-pulling. Gabe also presented a bid matrix on 2015 tree work, copy attached, and requested Board input on preferred vendors. Following discussion, the Board voted unanimously, based on a motion by Denise and seconded by Mark, to direct Gabe to opt for the vendor of his choice (Arbor Systems) and to go ahead with maintenance on a mutually agreed upon schedule. Upcoming clean-up events will be scheduled and a general clean up tied to a neighborhood social was suggested for the future. Two light fixtures on Greenway D were damaged since the last Board meeting and one on Greenway B, but Gabe repaired them and the full system currently is operating. Karen reported a request for reimbursement from Charles Morgan for the purchase of 15 bags of mulch for use on Colony Circle, and requested clarification of the procedure for handling such requests. The Board directed Karen to release \$40.00 as requested and to notify the block captain that no further funding for Colony Circle is available this year. A discussion followed regarding future processing of requests of this nature and the Board directed Kelly Chambers, once he is on board, to communicate to the circle block captains that (1) they are responsible for coordinating circle improvements outside of the Circle Grant Program, which will remain under Gabe's/Greenways Committee purview; (2) they notify Gabe of such actions, and (3) Karen be authorized to release approved circle improvement

allotments up to the \$40 limit per circle, once notified by the block captain that no additional funds will be sought for other work on the same circle.

Block Captains: Kathy McComb and Tina will work with Kelly Chambers to identify and address outstanding block captain needs, both in terms of staffing, as well as identifying standard contents of a neighborhood informational materials packet.

Communications: Karen asked if she is authorized to renew the standing \$45 Walnut Grove listserv fee in light of (A) the anticipated migration from the listserv to NextDoorWalnut Grove, and (B) the pending activation of the new Website. The Board acknowledged that because the listserv fee may be tied to the current website, and there is no clear indication when the NextDoor migration would occur, or the old website deactivated, Karen would continue making payments until Tina determines a working schedule for these actions.

ACC: Based on e-mail solicitation of responses to the latest survey iteration, Denise reported 140 responses. She does not envision many changes based on the latest returns, and noted that Laurie and Jim Howard have completed their SurveyMonkey work and have left the subcommittee. The ACC is planning future communications efforts in concert with Tina and Kelly in anticipation of at least one public session prior to the next annual meeting.

Social: Kathy McComb reported approximately 40 women participating in the Ladies Night Out at Old Chicago. In light of the success of the LNO, following on the Schwoegler Lanes Bowling Sunday, and the Madtown Twisters Pizza Party, funding for the social committee is down to \$650 for the rest of the year. The next social event will be the July 4<sup>th</sup> bike parade and neighborhood gathering at Walnut Grove Park. Movie Night on the Greenway on June 19<sup>th</sup> has been postponed. WGHA Garage Sales were scheduled for June 12 and 13 and are generally seen as a success.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Bylaws, Policies & Procedures Review Process: The Board tabled further discussion until proposed covenants are presented in the fall. Board discussed option of combining bylaw revisions with ACC revisions to be presented to the membership at the same time.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Denise will check to see if a funding match program for neighborhood signage still is in effect and will report on possible options to rehab or create new signs based on her findings.

Next meeting: Sunday, August 9, 4pm at location to be determined.

Adjourned by unanimous vote at 7:28pm

Prepared by Gina M. Lewandowski, acting for Kathy Raab, Secretary