

CAMBRIDGE WOODS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2007



COMMUNICATIONS

The CWNA website (<http://www.cambridgewoods.org>) has been running for a little more than 3 years. The website provides information about CWNA events and a space for each of the teams. The site also serves as an archive for meeting minutes and position papers. Over the course of 2007 it had been accessed by an average of 400 to 800 visitors per month. At the beginning of the year the website had been redesigned to make it easier to post and edit information. It is now fully implemented as a blog making it possible to be edited by more than one person without the need of special software. Over the course of the year we have gotten feedback from several residents through the feedback form implemented on the site.

Team members: Birgir Pahl, Else Ankel

FUN & GAMES

The Fun & Games Team can never have too many members so please contact Leslie or David to get involved..

Some events that occurred over the past year include:

- Chili Fest
- 2 Neighborhood Rummage Sales, Summer and Fall
- Summer Potluck
- Neighborhood Clean-up
- Caroling
- Animal Fest

Team members: Leslie Woodruff and David Kahn-Pettigrew

MEMBERSHIP

The team works to create a neighborhood organization with a sizable and representative membership to provide political clout and human and financial resources for the work of the organization.

Areas and activities of work:

INCREASE MEMBERSHIP

- Mailing past members to renew their membership
- CWNA T-shirts promotion during solicitation drive

ORGANIZATIONAL ITEMS

- Keep CWNA e-mail list current
- Solicit e-mail addresses at CWNA events, mailings, and outings

Team Members: Rusty Smith, Adolph Paul, and Else Ankel

NEIGHBORHOOD QUALITY

The Team works to maintain and increase the quality of the Cambridge Woods Neighborhood.

Areas and activities of work:

HOUSING STOCK

- Conduct annual survey of housing conditions in collaboration with the Department of Neighborhood Services
- Monitor of existing ordinances e.g. illegal rooming houses, underage drinking
- Promotion of owner-occupied housing in the area through the distribution of CW 'Houses for Sale' list.
- Research tools for increasing home ownership, i.e. Deed restrictions

NEIGHBORHOOD BEAUTIFICATION

- Access & enhancement of Cambridge Woods green areas
- Planting and trash/graffiti removal on traffic circles using Circle Keepers concept
- Litter removal through residents and in collaboration with UWM
- Plant exchange
- Recognition of beautiful homes and gardens
- Assistance and encouragement of rain gardens, green roof and rain barrels

NEIGHBOR RELATIONS

- Planned distribution of welcome letter with pertinent information to new neighbors
- Dissemination's of "best practices" in interactions among neighbors
- Highlight a neighbor on CWNA website
- Work with Oakland Avenue businesses area schools, and landlords
- Developed relationships with non-occupant owners in Cambridge Woods to encourage high standards for their units.

Team Members: Else Ankel, Judy Pier-Lybeck, Deb Slakes, and Debra Verhagen,

SAFETY

Purpose: To decrease incidences of crime in the Cambridge Woods area and to increase the feeling of safety among Cambridge Woods residents.

It's important to report all incidents to the Police Department at 933-4444 or 911 if it is an emergency; otherwise the police do not know what is happening in the Cambridge Woods neighborhood. Residents are encouraged to forward the same information to the Cambridge Woods Safety Team at Safetyteam@Cambridgewoods.org. The information will be used to notify the CWNA e-mail list without giving your name or address.

Areas and activities of work:

CRIME PREVENTION

- Attendance of monthly Crime Prevention and Block watch Council meetings at 5th District Police Station
- Organization of an annual Public CWNA meeting with a crime prevention topic
- Distribution of template for reporting crimes to the police (also posted on website)

DISSEMINATION OF CRIME INFORMATION

- Inform residents about how to obtain crime data from the 5th District Police (CWNA website)

- Encourage & train residents to correctly report crimes to the police and CWNA
- Notify CWNA e-mail list about crimes in the CW area

SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

- Alley Light Project- Notify and encourage alley lighting CW area
- Alley House Number Project- Encourage attachment of an alley house numbering in CW area

Team Members: Patti White, Karen Martinsen, Chris Breihan, Else Ankel, and Rusty Smith

TREASURER’S REPORT January 1 – December 31, 2007

2006 Ending Balance	\$2348.53
2007 Income	
2007 Memberships	1315.00
U.E.C. matching grant	250.00
Other Income	70.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$1635.00

2007 Expenses	
U.E.C. grant	500.00
President’s gift	50.00
Communications	75.00
Fun & Games Team	187.53
Membership Team	91.11
Neighborhood Quality Team	84.93
Safety	7.60
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$996.17

2007 Ending Balance	\$2,987.36
----------------------------	-------------------

Report from Rebecca North, CWNA Treasurer

CWNA Umbrella Groups

Oakland Avenue/University Square Business Improvement District

For this past year, the major point of discussion for the BID has been the improvement of the Oakland Avenue streetscape between E. Geneva Place and E. Linnwood Avenue. The BID is planning to spend around \$500,000 to make improvements to the BID area. Half of this amount would be paid by a Department of City Development neighborhood improvement grant. The remainder would be paid by a loan to the BID.

Improvements would include increasing the width of the sidewalks by 5 feet, resulting in a narrowed roadway of about 50 feet between E. Geneva Place and E. Linnwood Avenue. The goal is to slow traffic and to provide a better pedestrian experience. Parking lanes will remain as they are but the bike lanes will be eliminated near the Oakland/Locust intersection. At present,

roadway bump-outs are planned at E. Linwood and at E. Geneva Place. Trees, lightposts, benches, planters, crosswalk configurations, etc., will be determined as the project develops. Further information about the streetscape improvement will be shared with CWNA as the project progresses. Actual work on the streetscape is expected to begin sometime in 2008.

Like the residents of the CWNA area, the members of the BID are concerned with crime, litter, late night rowdiness, etc. Various officers of the 5th Precinct of the Milwaukee Police Department have attended BID meetings to listen to the concerns and offer advice and information.

Report for OA/USBID provided by Adolph Paul

University Neighborhoods Association

The University Neighborhoods Association (UNA) formed in 2001. The loosely formed group is based as a collaborative effort to discuss issues of importance to the area in and around UW-Milwaukee. CWNA has two representatives that regularly attend these group meetings to address neighborhood issues of parking, transit, housing, and quality of life.

The newly hired University Neighborhood Liaison (Oscar Perez) has been very active in addressing student behavior problems in the surrounding neighborhoods that have seen an increase and awareness of certain crimes. Neighborhood groups have been focused on enabling the expansion of addressing discipline of student conduct in off campus incidents. This effort falls under UW System rules known as Chapter 17 and has UWM Administration but it requires a rather lengthy process. A decision one way or another should occur in the coming year.

The surrounding area this past year witnessed the implementation of a parking management tool known as Residential Parking or Residential Preferred Parking Program. The program includes reserved sides of streets for residents only. The number of spaces was limited to spaces created by UWM based on an understanding made under a past umbrella group, Eastside Transportation Management Association. Future expansion will be based on additional on campus spaces created by UWM.

Northeast Side Area Plan / Milwaukee River Work Group

The Northeast Side Area Plan (NEAP) is a neighborhood plan that was kicked off in 2007, and will be woven together to become the City's Comprehensive Plan. The area covers a broad and diverse segment of Milwaukee from Riverworks and UWM on the north to Brewers Hill and Brady Street on the south, Bronzeville and King Drive on the west to the lakefront (Bradford Beach to Pier Wisconsin) on the east.

The plan will provide a blueprint for future development of the area and will identify specific projects that will be undertaken to support that development. The plan will provide policies based on shared values that will shape the character of development for years to come. The plan will also outline an implementation strategy and a framework for community partnership.

Cambridge Woods NA has been an active participant in the planning effort as a representative on the Plan Advisory and Contract Management Team. CWNA has worked closely with Murray Hill NA representative and other neighborhood groups in providing comments to consultants in plan development. Two major public surveys for the plan have been completed. An electronic Community Survey was conducted as well as an Image Preference Survey presented throughout the planning area. For more information on the planning process and related documents, visit the website at:
www.mkedcd.org/planning/plans/Northeast/index.html

Related to the City's planning effort, a coalition of organizations concerned with the Milwaukee River was formed to advocate a comprehensive plan that includes public policy, zoning, preservation guidelines and a stewardship plan for protecting the Milwaukee River corridor. For more on the Milwaukee River Workgroup, visit the website at:
www.protectmilwaukeeiver.org

CWNA devoted two meetings to both the area plan and the river corridor preservation. The NEAP meeting included an Image Preference Survey and a separate community workshop was promoted to garner public input. The community workshops were held by the Milwaukee River Work Group (MRWG), and the UWM School of Architecture and Urban Planning's design center, Community Design Solutions, to gather public input on the proposed Milwaukee River Greenway. Participants overwhelmingly supported the essential elements of the Greenway that would stretch along the banks and bluffs of the river from the North Avenue footbridge to the City limits at Silver Spring Drive. The plan would improve wildlife habitat, water quality, preservation of native plant species, and public access, as well as provide a protected "viewshed" via municipal zoning regulations for new development along the river bluff. MRWG will meet this winter with the City and others to begin negotiations on the final overlay district. The overlay district initially included only residents along Cambridge Avenue along with western half of the 3400 block of Newhall. Recommendations have been made to expand the area to include all blocks of Newhall Avenue to make the corridor boundaries less jagged.

Related to both the community area plan and river corridor, CWNA conducted a survey to get feedback on concept of river connections or crossings raised in the planning process. The survey regarding connections across the river in the Cambridge Woods area produced some mixed results. While most did favor a connection, a strong dissenting position was expressed in the survey and voiced again at the last CWNA General Meeting that featured a panel presentation on safety. The survey was done in response to suggestions made in the City's North East Area Plan. As a result, the consultants for this long range plan have since backed off on the potential crossings in Cambridge Woods, limiting a possible connection under Locust Street Bridge. No plan or decision has been forwarded in any crossing.

Reports for UNA and NSAP provided by Peter McMullen: