

Cambridge Woods Neighborhood Association
General Meeting
March 20, 2007, 7:00 p.m.
Urban Ecology Center

Minutes Prepared by: Nick Blavat

I. Housekeeping

II. Discussion Items

- CWNA VP (Hilary Chavez) asked to see what people's involvement would be in group activities. CWNA is looking for new group team suggestions. A list was pasted around of current groups and potential new groups.
- Peter discussed the Northeast Side Area Plan information meeting to see what the community stakeholder's vision are from a recent brainstorming session. He is waiting for finalized notes from the meeting.

III. Mike D'Amato Community Updates

- Mike D'Amato was present and had some community updates. He addressed recent crime in the neighborhood. He stated the police arrested a couple of criminals. He stated that the rape on North and Oakland was not a 'stranger' crime as reported and appears to be known by the victim. It is important to know that a rapist was not running around the neighborhood and media reported false information. MPD is still doing protective patrol. MPD made a big arrest of a crime ring responsible for around 500 car thefts.
- Mike also wanted the community to be aware of the eNotify list (Map Milwaukee <http://www.city.milwaukee.gov//display/router.asp?docid=3480>) which shows streets scheduled to get redone. Alleys ways are also on this map.
- Mike also discussed solicitors sending mailers to residents offering fast cash for their homes. He stated they are not big spenders. They probably are looking to convert the home to a student rental property. Unfortunately, these solicitors can not be policed by law.
- The city is looking to save the Hillel House on Kenwood by UWM. They are looking to turn the residence into a duplex.
- Downer Avenue Development to break ground in May. The phasing of the project will be first parking structure, bank, new building on Park, Streetscape, and finally Condo / Hotel structure.
- Residents are concerned about fixing the potholes on Locust Street (especially from Oakland to Holton).
- April 1st starts street sweeping in the neighborhood. Glass in the streets was a concern of CWNA.
- April 1st also starts Resident only parking. Some signs are up with restrictions. Official signs will go up in April. Currently the City runs

ads in the UWM Post regarding the street sweeping and can do a similar effort about this parking change. CWNA will post change on website. CWNA wants non restricted blocks to retain and not increase parking time limits.

IV. University Square Business Improvement District Presentation on Locust BID

- Jim Plaisted from the Oakland Avenue University Square Business Improvement District joined CWNA to discuss potential BID for Locust Street.
- Jim handed out an informational flyer on what a BID is and it's process.
- The BID plans to add new streetscape at Oakland and Locust. University Square is considered from Newberry to Linwood.
- The Bid was in place for 10 years. Commercial properties get tax assessed. Residential properties can onto be taxed. Apartments are a grey area. The BID does not include tax exempt properties like Riverside High School.
- This BID is unique because it involves other institutions. The board has Gil Snyder (UWM-SARUP), Sharon Lerner, Riverside High School, Columbia (Not on board anymore do to merger with St. Mary's), Clark Graphics, Miramar Theatre, Oakland Trattoria, and the Washing Well.
- 1994 was the start of the initial streetscape plan involving façade rehab, planting of trees, and new signs. The BID provides maintenance for the district. This also involves holiday lighting and graffiti removal.
- Walgreen's site was a major factor. Sentry was owned by as independent operator. It was bought and worked on rehab plan. Loan was involved. Ultimately the independent operator did not like the grocery store investment. They did not like the current leaser of their building and pulled the rehab plan. Walgreen's was interested in the Sentry Property for years. It was a prime location to relocate.
- Currently the Balisteri now controls the old Walgreen's location. They have no intent to tear it down. Mike D'Amato and Jim Plaisted will monitor this property.
- Second major factor is to create a new streetscape. The area has high traffic with narrow side walks. Bike lane narrowed traffic. The BID would like to see traffic slowed down, but it is challenging because 20,000 cars drive on this road a day.
- North Avenue proved that curbs could be enlarged with new streetscape. They have DPW support.
- They are putting schematic pricing together. Overall budget is around \$500,000. Major goal would to move street lights out and create outdoor dining possibilities for vibrant atmosphere.
- Else suggested survey of neighbors because they are the users who would use this area the most.
- By early spring / summer, a schematic design should be done.
- Walgreen's currently meets all zone codes for commercial use.

- CWNA would like to use Whole Foods as a template because they used a neighborhood survey, had UWM's input, and committed to have public involvement for 6-8 months.
- The BID collects \$30,000 a year.
- CWNA would like to see a stop sign at Linnwood intersection. Mike D'Amato indicated that traffic engineers felt that was not the answer.
- At the city website a rendering of the Walgreen's should exist. Computer rendering is outdated and does not reflect materials accurately. The building has a municipal look with a lot of window fenestration. Housing above Walgreen's was omitted from project scope. It will have a drive through by the alley, but should have a low traffic impact.
- The BID is looking for community opinion.
- SARUP is helping with the design.
- Jim then discussed brief the plans to create a water garden for children at Bradford Beach. It is at the beginning phases of development but would be an attempt to get people back to the lake front.

V. Team Reports

Communications

Website has been updated with pictures and announcements.

Fun and Games

Chili Fest went really good. F & Games would like to set dates for future events.

Membership

There were two dozen mailings done a month ago to past members. It was concentrated to members who have not renewed in 2006 or 2007. Since the mailing CWNA has had 30 new members. Current membership is at 56.

Safety Committee

A handout on "How to report safety concerns or incidents to the police" was distributed. The teams talked to the police about recent break-ins and harassment. The team is looking for the police to email back about the status of crimes so the neighborhood would know whether the criminal was caught or still at large.

Neighborhood Quality

Else hand out copies of updates. The team would like to have a survey of the housing stock. April 14th is the planned date for the UWM Spring Cleanup. The team would like the students to feel that clean is normal. It was also discussed how a neighbor bought a duplex next to his home to fix it up for resale to a new non rental owner.

VI. Adjourn - Adjourned at 8:30 p.m.