

Minutes
SW Neighborhood Steering Committee
Greentree-Meadowood-Orchard Ridge-Park Ridge-Prairie Hills Neighborhoods
Tuesday, February 13, 2007
West District Police Station, 1710 McKenna Boulevard
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

SW Neighborhood Planning Website: <http://www.cityofmadison.com/swnp/>

SW Steering Committee Members: Kara Boeldt; Durrell Ramer; Tim Johnson; Douglas Kammann; Joel Kupferberg; Marge Liss; Larry Luther; Tom McKenna; Karen Sielaff; Lisa Subeck; and Bryan Summ.

City Staff: Jule Stroick; Archie Nicolette; and Linda Horvath (Planning & Development); Angela Bennett (Equal Opportunities Commission); Caleb Bedford; Mary Anne Thurber; Cindy Thiesenhusen; and Linda Kosevac (Police Department).

Excused Absence: Sandy Erickson; Ernie Horinek; Christie Howell-Yrios; and Rick Stirr.

Absent: Ann Barker and Susan Clay.

Others: Tony Smick; Karen Deaton; Marge Hannan Rfer; Nicky Morris; and Cheri Yearous.

IV. Review/Discussion of Neighborhood Issues

Neighborhood Police Officer Caleb Bedford, Community Safety Officer Mary Anne Thurber, Neighborhood Police Officer Cindy Thiesenhusen and Community Policing Sergeant Linda Kosevac discussed their approaches to safety concerns in the SW area and other parts of the West Police District. The Steering Committee and audience then asked questions of the panel.

An outcome of the meeting discussion is the concept that safe neighborhoods involve a partnership between many parts of the community.

- An external agency will conduct a review of staffing levels at the West District Station sometime in 2007.
- Neighborhood police officers are working with landlords to identify and sometimes evict problem tenants. This does not always work as intended since evicted tenants sometimes move into an apartment a few doors down.
- Options for neighbors seeking to increase safety could include: neighborhood watches, groups of neighbors leave lights on for the same timeframe at night, get to know each other better, and communicate problems through email and a neighborhood watch website.
- The Police Department could conduct a safety survey of houses and/or could meet with neighborhood groups and conduct safety seminars. The seminars could be for areas of single-family homes and for apartment buildings. They could include ways to prevent identity theft.
- The community policing teams are proactive not reactive. They rely on tips from Crimestoppers and through other means. Some things that they do include traffic enforcement in unmarked vehicles, assisting patrols with the aftermath of accidents on the Beltline and other roads, the Elver Park 4th of July celebration, drug buys, prostitution rings, and dignitary protection.
- There has been a movement of probationers and parolees into the SW planning area – the Police Department has been working with parole officers to help curb associated problems

through ride-alongs where police officers have parole officers ride with them on routine police calls.

- Some Steering Committee members asked what the group could do to help curb crime. In part, they were wondering how they could influence the request for additional police officers at the West District Station. The police responded that they could talk with their alders, and send emails and letters to the Mayor's office.
- Mary Anne Thurber added that addressing safety should start with kids. One option is mentoring children. Children are witnessing crime at increasingly younger ages. Mentoring can offer a positive role model.
- Madison Urban Ministry Journey Home Program is an effort to ease the transition for people who have recently gotten out of prison.
- There are bigger structural issues that need to be dealt with and one approach is focusing on building partnerships between the Police and the community, and between the schools and the community.
- Officer Bedford has seen a lot of positive things happening in the neighborhood with regard to crime. The Prairie Hills Neighborhood Watch Group letter to the Mayor's office brought attention to the planning area.

I. Announcements

II. Approval of January 23 Minutes

On a motion by Kupferberg, seconded by Kammann the minutes were approved unanimously.

III. Updates/Status Reports

Douglas Kammann discussed the meeting held Thursday February 8 with landlords in the SW planning area and City staff from the Department of Planning & Community & Economic Development. Meeting discussions led to several strategies including:

- organize landlord training
- convert some rental houses to owner-occupancy
- convert Community Development Authority property from rental to owner-occupied housing
- pursue Neighborhood Improvement Districts for the area

V. Other Business

Lisa Subeck provided an update on the Open House planned for Saturday, February 17 from 12-2:00 p.m. at the Meadowood Shopping Mall, 5702 Raymond Road. Five stations covering land use, community services, personal safety, transportation, and parks and open space will be setup. Participants will be asked to prioritize the ideas and issues provided on presentation boards for each topic. They will also be asked to answer questions that will help staff determine what is of most importance to the group.

VI. Next Meeting

The SW Neighborhood Open House is scheduled for February 17, 2007 at the Meadowood Shopping Center, 5702 Raymond Road, from 12-2:00 p.m.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.