

Minutes

SW Neighborhood Steering Committee
Greentree-Meadowood-Orchard Ridge-Park Ridge-Prairie Hills Neighborhoods
Tuesday, December 12, 2006
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 5701 Raymond Road
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
SW Neighborhood Planning Website: <http://www.cityofmadison.com/swnp/>

SW Steering Committee Members: Sandy Erickson; Ernie Horinek; Christie Howell-Yrios; Tim Johnson; Douglas Kammann; Joel Kupferberg; Marge Liss; Larry Luther; Tom McKenna; Durrell Ramer; Karen Sielaff; DeKendra Stamps; Lisa Subeck; Bryan Summ. City Staff: Jule Stroick; Archie Nicolette; Linda Horvath.

Excused: Kara Boeldt

Absent: Ann Barker; Susan Clay

Others: Alderperson Cindy Thomas; Co. Supervisor Matt Veldran; Marlys Miller; Tony Smick; Karen Deaton

I. Announcements

- Prairie Hills Neighborhood Association unveiled their new electronic newsletter.
- Meadowood Neighborhood Association: Organized holiday visits for children within the neighborhood.

II. Approval of November 28 Minutes

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

III. Updates/Status of Neighborhood Activities

- Joint meeting with the local school principals is being planned.

IV. Review/Discussion of Neighborhood Issues

- Parks and Recreation

Si Widstrand, Madison Parks Division, indicated that it is important to form partnerships with neighborhood associations for the long-term maintenance/enhancement of public spaces. He indicated that the greenway system is a wonderful asset within the SW planning area. He led a discussion of the park and open space issues and draft recommendations. Participants provided comments and additional issues to be considered and possibly incorporated into the parks and open space recommendations.

Discussion and additional issues for consideration:

- Install a sign in Elver Park indicating that booming base is not allowed.
- Dog park questions and comments: How does dog park permitting work? There is a joint permit system between the County and the City. Other parks with dog areas include Lucia Crest, near Hoyt Park, Quann Park, Sycamore Park, Warner Park and Brittingham Park. At Lucia Crest there are restricted hours for dog use. There are typically volunteer cleanup days at dog parks though owners are supposed to regularly clean up after their

dogs. Is there any sort of restriction by breed? There are sometimes fenced areas set aside for smaller dogs and puppies.

- Dog park could be located on the Hammersley greenway, on top of the landfill. Its very unlikely that the concentration of methane from the vent system would cause an explosion if a cigarette were lit nearby or dropped into the vent.
- Could there be smaller dog parks near apartments?
- Is the Greentree landfill area really a prairie restoration as it claims to be? What type of maintenance is undertaken at this site? The usual Parks Division protocol is to mow a trail system in prairie areas and this is done after July 15 to avoid nesting bird populations.
- At the Whispering Willows apartments, there should be another way to get in and out of the parking lot and also a way to access the adjacent park. There are many kids and lower-income people living in these apartments.
- Also, in this area there are swing sets without swings and basketball nets missing. This shows City disinvestment in the neighborhood.
- City staff ask that the neighborhoods help identify areas where the Parks Division should focus attention.
- Staff would like to explore ways to direct extra eyes on the parks to help people feel more comfortable.
- Does the Parks Division consider the density of children living in an area when planning for parks needs? No, parks are planned on more of a geographic needs basis.
- Between 1995 and 2000, the Parks Division made safety upgrades to many of the City's parks. Over the last couple of years, the Parks Division began doing safety upgrades again.
- Some people use Elver Park over smaller neighborhood parks because the equipment at Elver is superior.
- It would be helpful if Parks installed electricity at the Meadowood Park shelter. This would cost about \$5,000 and it is unlikely that Parks would choose to do this. Parks observes that many people host picnics and other events that need electricity in large parks such as Elver Park where there are more facilities available.
- Improved access to Greentree Park is needed along Park Edge and Park Ridge Drive.
- A shelter with toilet facilities and water fountains is needed at Lucy Lincoln Hiestand Park. Parks encourages organized groups to rent portable toilets for special activities.
- What does the Parks Division know about user patterns in the parks? What sorts of efforts have been taken to gather use data? Parks conducts general use surveys periodically. Parks also looks to neighborhood associations for user information. Parks observes that people most often use the parks that have the largest diversity of facilities and activities. People want to be where the action is taking place. Users also tend to like large open spaces.
- Parks has identified some fitness trails and walking routes that have missing connections.
- There is a Friends of Elver Park organization that acts as a financial agent to help with improvements. Maybe the SW neighborhoods could join together and create an areawide association to help with park improvements and other similar tasks.
- The shrubs along the perimeter of the Lucy Lincoln Hiestand greenway create undesirable places of people to lurk.
- The issue of why some of the smaller tennis court facilities are not used very often came up at one of our meetings. This is a chicken and egg phenomenon where people are not using the facilities because they are not adequately maintained. Parks would like to group smaller facilities together. Eventually, Parks will acquire the Marty Farm and the intention is to build a larger tennis court facility on this space.

- During the upcoming meetings with the schools, could we request the help of students in identifying recreation needs?
- Could we request that a Spray Park be added to the planning area – maybe at Lucy Lincoln Hiestand Park?
- Will the Steering Committee vote on priorities within each issue area? Yes, after we have discussed all of the issues and draft recommendations.
- Parks is most interested in knowing what the neighborhood would like for Elver Park, then what it would like for all other areas in the SW neighborhoods.

▪ **Transportation**

Participants were asked to think about transportation issues and concerns and to post them at the front of the room on an aerial map of the planning area. The following list incorporates the issues and concerns generated by the group:

Walking safely and efficiently in the neighborhood

- In areas that are used frequently by pedestrians and children, the City should do a better job of removing snow. This is particularly important on streets without sidewalks such as Balsam Road, Barton Road from Rae Lane to Whitney Way for Toki School.
- Throughout the SW Neighborhood the lack of lighting and sidewalks is dangerous for pedestrians. This particularly relates to kids, elderly and really to everyone.
- Some property owners would rather not have sidewalks on their block.
- The student drop-off point at Falk Elementary School is not safe enough.
- It is unsafe for elementary school children to walk across Gammon Road at Hammersley Road, Elver Park, the Elver Park Apartments, and the Wisconsin Youth Company.
- The planning area needs sidewalks the entire length of Whitney Way south of the Beltline.
- Intersections
 - Pedestrians find it difficult to cross at the Raymond/Leland intersection.
 - A traffic signal might make it easier for pedestrians to cross the Whitney Way/Raymond Road intersection.
 - The pedestrian crossing at Hammersley, Loreen, Prairie and Theresa Terrace does not feel safe, except when there is a crossing guard – maybe a three-way stop at Prairie Road would be helpful.
 - Safer crossings are needed at Hammersley Road to Hammersley Park and Falk Elementary School.
- There are often pedestrians walking in the middle of the street on Jacobs Way, Theresa Terrace, and Lucy, Prairie, and Frisch Roads.

Biking safely and efficiently in the neighborhood

- Hammersley Road between Whitney Way and Gammon Road does not seem safe because of speeding cars and poor visibility.
- Extend the Lucy Lincoln Hiestand greenway path through to the path at Hammersley Park.

- The bike path cut through at Grand Canyon Drive is important but the marked paths quickly stop as you bike north of the Beltline.

Speeding problems

- Hammersley Road.
- In the early morning, vehicles traveling eastbound on Raymond Road, turning left onto Reetz Road, then turning onto Freeport at high speed – this is very dangerous to cars that are on Reetz and are trying to get onto Raymond Road.
- There is too much speeding on Whitney Way south of the Beltline.
- Park Edge and Park Ridge Drives are curving streets where drivers often speed. This is a particularly hazardous situation as there are large numbers of children living along these roads.
- The homicide turns and traffic of McKenna Boulevard create a barrier for those living in our neighborhood who are trying to access Elver Park.
- Drivers drive too fast on Russett Road - speed bumps might help to slow down the traffic.
- Signage could be installed to remind people that this area is largely residential and therefore drivers should slow down.

Busses

- Need more direct bus routes to the downtown.
- In some cases people who depend on public transit spend two hours each way getting to their workplaces. Public transit is often an inconvenient way to get around.
- Busses speed on Hammersley Road.
- Move the bus stop from the corner on Hammersley/Whitney Way up onto Hammersley Road.
- At Metro transfer points need: better parking, better shelter, and toilet facilities.
- Access to food, services and parks and recreation is very difficult for people who do not have or cannot afford a car. The Metro system needs to be more user-friendly.

Traffic Flow

- The Odana Road commercial area north of the Beltline offers great services and attractions to those living in the planning area. But this is such an ugly area and the vehicular traffic is its own barrier making this no neighborhood at all!
- The Gammon Road/Beltline interchange is a traffic problem any time of the day. This interchange does not evoke a neighborhood.
- North of Raymond Road its confusing as to whether Whitney Way is a two-lane or a four-lane road.

Road connections

- Shortcuts
 - Russett Road is used as a shortcut to Whitney Way to avoid the 4-way stop.
 - Some people cut onto Dorsett Dr. from Raymond Rd. and speed up to Whitney Way. One solution is to put speed bumps on Dorsett Dr.
 - Need a street along the bike path under the Beltline to connect Struck with Grand Canyon Drive.
 - Need curb and gutter at the north end of Gammon Lane.
 - The left turn lane from Gammon Road to McKenna Boulevard by Griff's is particularly busy during rush hour. Could traffic lights installed at the entrance to Elver Park and at Schroeder Road improve this situation?
 - The Prairie/Raymond Road intersection is difficult to get through. If you are on Prairie you cannot cross or turn left onto Raymond Road.
 - The morning congestion on McKenna Boulevard, south of Raymond Road is a problem.
 - With the high occupancy vehicle lane access to the Beltline at the Whitney Way and Schroeder Road interchange, the green arrow should stay on longer.
 - The left turn lane from Schroeder Road to northbound Whitney Way should include a straight option as well as the eastbound Beltline ramp option.
 - Schroeder/Whitney Intersection
 - This intersection does not evoke neighborhood.
 - Drivers in the left turn lane from Schroeder Road to northbound Whitney Way should also be allowed to drive straight onto the ramp to go eastbound on the Beltline.
 - The straight lane to the eastbound Beltline backs up impeding cars from turning right onto southbound Whitney Way.
 - The straight-ahead arrows at Whitney Way and Schroeder Road are out of sync with the lanes of traffic.
 - The intersection of Kroncke Drive/Whitney Way is problematic.

V. Other Business

- Coordination of Community-Wide Meeting(s)
- Coordination of Neighborhood Activities

VI. Next Meeting

Future meeting dates are:

December 19: Wisconsin Youth & Family Center, 1201 McKenna Blvd., 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

MEETING CANCELLED

January 9: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 5701 Raymond Road, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

January 23: Wisconsin Youth & Family Center, 1201 McKenna Blvd., 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

February 13: Westside Police District, 1701 McKenna Blvd, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

February 27: Westside Police District, 1701 McKenna Blvd, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

VII. Adjournment