

MINUTES
University Neighborhood Association (UNA)
October 13, 2005, 6:30 p.m.
Urban Ecology Center, 1500 E. Park Place

- I. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Dave Remstad, Chairperson, of Watertown Landmark Trust (WTLT). Members of UNA in attendance were:

Dave Remstad, WTLT Else Ankel, CWNA Peter McMullen, CWNA

Mike Maher, Village of Shorewood Tom Luljak, UW-Milwaukee Kay Baldwin, MHNA

Paul Westrick, Columbia/St Mary's (CSM) Michael Panlener, MNA

Others in attendance were:

Adrienne Houck, WTLT PO Bruce Scott, Milwaukee Police Dept., Dist. 5 PO Jason Reifschneider, MPD, Dist 5

PO Jaime Castlo, MPD, Dist. 5 Lisa Smith, UWM Neighborhood Housing Allison Rozek, City of Milwaukee Dept. of City Development

Kristin Krueger, Milwaukee Dept. of City Development

II. Housekeeping Minutes

Approval of the Minutes for the December 4, 2004, and April, 2005 UNA meetings were postponed since the representatives were not present at this meeting.

Motion by Paul Westrick (CSM) to approve the August 22, 2005 Minutes, as edited. Second by Kay Baldwin, and the motion carried.

Membership Representation/Distribution

Peter McMullen has an updated Contact Roster, but is waiting for confirmation of a representative from the Student Association, and a second contact person from Marniers.

III. New Business

Department of City Development

Allison Rozek and Kristen Krueger from the City of Milwaukee Department of City Development advised there will be a meeting on October 31, 2005 by the City Plan Commission to discuss (among other things) the NE Side Comprehensive Plan for our area. They are seeking input from UNA and others, in order to provide City

Commissioners information on neighborhood priorities and issues, in writing for review before their meeting.

Rozek and Krueger distributed a draft of the “City Plan Commission Update October 31, 2005” of the 2002-03 “A Strategy & Vision for the UWM Neighborhood,” for review and comment. Rozek advised members there will be opportunity for a 5-10 minute presentation by one or more representatives of UNA. Given the short amount of time, Rozek suggested the group select a small number of the most pertinent issues. After some discussion, it was agreed that Rozek would be a good person to make the presentation to the Commissioners.

Dave Remstad led the discussion to identify the top issues and priorities:

1. Parking
 - a. Tom Luljak stated we have agreement between the neighborhood groups and UWM on Residential Parking Permit (RPP).
 - b. Luljak advised the student association is likely to disapprove it.
 - c. RPP is now in the hands of State Senators for approval.
2. Increasing the ability of UWM to discipline students for misconduct off-campus
 - a. Luljak stated that UWM has approved, and has forwarded to the Board of Regents for approval, language changes in Chapter 17.
 - b. Luljak advised students are opposed to changes in Chapter 17.
 - c. Luljak also advised UWM has asked the State to take this issue up immediately.
3. Purchase of Columbia Hospital by UWM
 - a. Remstad stated that the neighborhood groups support the purchase for use as academic facilities such as a School of Public Health, but strongly oppose its use as student housing.
 - b. Luljak stated obstacles to purchase include the price.
 - c. Other obstacles may include deed restrictions related to a 1991 agreement between Columbia Hospital and Mariners’ Association.
 - i. Michael Panlener advised that Columbia Hospital’s position is that if the building is not used for medical purposes, there is no agreement, or restriction, with regard to its use.
 - ii. Pauliner also advised Alderman D’Amato’s office is investigating the existence and enforceability of the deed restrictions if the building is not used for medical purposes.
4. Aggressive Code Enforcement
 - a. All parties in attendance agreed that we want aggressive code enforcement to prevent illegal actions such as unlicensed taverns and renting to more than three unrelated tenants.
 - b. The opinion of the students is unknown as a representative was not in attendance.
5. Increase in UWM Sponsored Student Housing Off-Campus

- a. The neighborhood groups and UWM agree that more student housing should be outside the immediate neighborhood.
 - b. Luljak advised the UWM is in discussions with developers.
 - c. Else Ankle stated the neighborhood groups are frustrated with the lack of progress. She fears progress will be too slow to save the neighborhoods.
6. Car Sharing Program
- a. Peter McMullen stated the program mentioned in the UWM Report spoke of implementation by April, 2006.
 - b. Both Neighborhood groups and UWM are in favor of this program.

Rozek stated she would writeup the issues and distribute via email to UNA members for review and edit prior to distribution to City Commissioners. There was general agreement on 3 speakers at the October 31 meeting: 1. Rozek would report on issues; 2. Marty Collins, from the Department of Neighborhood Services, would report on noise, crime, and code violation statistics; and 3. Alderman D'Amato would report on housing complaints. Neighborhood and UWM representatives should be available for Commissioners' questions. The general strategy is to attempt to engage CPC Commissioners so that they ask what they want to know, rather than we tell them what we want them to hear. Persons anticipated to be in attendance were Tom Luljak (or another UWM representative), Paul Westrick (Columbia Hospital) and Else Ankle (CWNA).

IV. Progress Report on Action Items

Quality of Life

Student misconduct off-campus (Ch. 17) and Aggressive Code Enforcement

Tom Luljak noted that UW system president Kevin Reilley and regent David Walsh are the persons responsible for moving the amendments forward. He asks that neighborhood groups and individuals write in support of the proposed language changes that would enhance UWM's ability to reprimand students for their behavior off-campus. Luljak will keep UNA advised as Ch. 17 proceeds.

Neighborhood Patrols

Police Officer Bruce Scott, of the 5th District reported on neighborhood patrols. Officer Scott advised that based on the needs of the neighborhood there were generally four officers out on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights. Overtime has been funded primarily by a \$12,500 grant from UWM, covering the end of August until Oct 22 (Tom Luljak volunteered to investigate extending the grant to provide overtime for the Halloween festivities).

Officer Scott further reported a Youth and Alcohol grant provided funds to provide undercover officers to investigate illegal taverns, parties, and activities through Sept 30. Scott stated that UWM police assisted in a number of these investigations by securing alcohol readings on suspects.

Officer Scott introduced Officers Jason Reifschneider and Jamie Castlo, who conduct the UWM area bike patrols. This summer police patrols resulted in 80 citations for resisting arrest and obstruction of justice; 179 noise violations; 86 tickets for alcohol by a minor; 13 tickets for disorderly conduct, and 2 for reckless driving. There were also 13 citations for illegal taverns, which are referred to the Department of Neighborhood Services (DNS) for follow-up for code violations.

Parking & Transit

ETMA Report

Peter McMullen advised that the Eastside Transportation Management Association (ETMA) has disbanded as a standalone group due to a lack of leadership going forward. Furthering the goals of ETMA therefore fall back to UNA. McMullen suggested that ETMA become a subcommittee of UNA. This will require leadership. McMullen said he would contact Sam Rowen, assistant to Alderman D'Amato, to discuss his taking the chair of ETMA structured as a subcommittee of UNA. McMullen wants to see UWM participate. Luljak advised that when UWM has its Neighborhood Relations position filled he expects that person will participate. (Amy Watson left that position to attend law school.) McMullen stated it is important that Murray Hill participate since the biggest parking issues are in Murray Hill. McMullen advised that Cambridge Woods offered to host/manage the ETMA website, which has been paid for (by the Oakland Ave/University Square BID and neighborhood residents) through May, 2006.

McMullen advised the Residential Parking Permit program (RPP) has 6 sponsors in the State Senate, and more are being sought from other areas of the state, especially those that already have a similar program (River Falls, Superior, and Green Bay).

Housing

Mike Maher stated that Shorewood residents are "awakened" to the issues with student residents. Nuisance calls are up, as is enforcement against underage drinking. There is a decreased tolerance of rubbish. The Village Manager seems to be following Milwaukee's lead on rooming houses. The village is in the process of conducting extensive urban planning on Oakland and Capital in order to create an interesting shopping area and better housing.

There was some discussion of the VA Site, which is where the proposed Milwaukee Connector would terminate. There is general agreement between the Mayor and Veterans' Administration to explore options and review infrastructure and facilities for possible use as student housing.

Lisa Smith (who recently married, and will be changing her name to Lisa Sarnowski), of the UWM Neighborhood Housing office gave an update. She advised they are making their web site more educational and enhancing listing services to prevent advertisements of illegal rooming houses. Her office sponsored a Tour of Homes last summer, which was a big success. She stated the rental market is wide open with 200-300 listings of units (not bedrooms). Her office is working with landlords to fill the vacancies.

The Neighborhood Housing office is also working on a “Preferred Tenant Program,” which is a series of three one hour workshops to educate students on living in the UWM neighborhood. The Program will include a list of landlords who may provide incentives, such as free rent or free cable TV for one month, for program ‘graduates.’

Else Ankel suggested the Neighborhood Housing office might be helpful to students without cars by providing access to bikes.

Luljak advised UWM is sending a letter from the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, to all students living in the UWM neighborhood, advising them of police patrols and fines if they are not ‘good neighbors.’ The letters will be sent along with a copy of the “Neighborhood Service Booklet.”

Luljak also advised there is a meeting tomorrow at the Milwaukee County Board, and a public hearing on October 31 regarding a proposed increase in UPASS fees. He, and others, fear that such an increase will cause the Student Association to drop the UPASS program. He asks that we call or write to County Supervisor Gerry Broderick opposing a price increase.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Adrienne Houck, WTLT member