

**SPRING HARBOR NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
BOARD MEETING
7:00 P.M. Tuesday, February 11, 2014
Dale Heights Church**

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

Board members in attendance: Bill Fitzpatrick, Mary Beth Dunning, Jeanette Tierney, Stan Fuka, Jeff Schneider, Greg Hull

Others in attendance: Herman Felstehausen, Amy Hasselman (Architecture Network), Mark Clear

January Meeting Minutes

Approved with no changes.

Treasurer's Report

Bill Fitzpatrick presented the finalized 2014 budget incorporating changes suggested at the January board meeting. The report was unanimously approved.

Proposed Garage Expansion for 5006 Lake Mendota Drive

Amy Hasselman, architect with Architecture Network, presented a proposed plan to build a second garage, matching the existing garage, which is designed in the style of the house. The house will be visible between the opening created by the two garages, which will be aligned close to Lake Mendota Drive. This plan will require a zoning variance to make changes to existing parking area. The architect pointed out that the slope of the property from the road towards the lake makes adding on to existing garage difficult and would create a deep setback. The plan is being taken to the Zoning Board of Appeals on Thursday.

After the architect's presentation, Jeanette suggested that the discussion take into consideration most lakefront residents consider the lakeside of their homes to be the front yard and that the street side view is therefore the back yard. She added that zoning codes already restrict the lakeside development of these lots to preserve the aesthetic and environmental features, and she feels that it would be unfair for lake front property owners to now also meet backyard restrictions that are not imposed on their non-lakefront property neighbors.

There was discussion about the mass of the two garages relative to the width of the lot and the possible wind-tunnel effect created by the opening between the two garages. Bill suggested construction techniques for the expanding the existing garage that could address the owners concern for damage to the oak tree. Herman Felstehausen said he thought that some creative changes could be to the existing garage to reduce the visual impact of the structure since it sits so close to the road.

Bill stated he would prefer that the variance application be postponed [so that the architect could bring back to the board revised plans]. Herman said that he had already talked to owner of the property about doing this. The architect stated that there is “a procedural advantage” for getting the variance for driveway approved. [Presumably she means for the construction schedule].

After the architect left, there was a brief discussion about the role of the Board during this kind of presentation. Mary Beth Dunning, Jeff Schneider and Jeanette expressed concern that suggesting the above changes to the architectural plans goes beyond the advisory role of the Board. Herman said discussion is necessary about all options, including architectural, since the only variance being applied for is for the driveway. Herman added that there is a need to look at two aspects of the proposal: variance and architectural details. Mark commented that as a board we need to decide how far to push a residential property owner to consider suggestions. Herman said he did not think we were pushing; instead we are passing on suggestions, and he added that being concerned about what “maintains the aesthetics of Lake Mendota Drive is not trivial”.

Development Update—Herman Felstehausen

Both coffee shops (MOKA and EVP) are open. Herman is working to get a “Yield to Pedestrian” sign for the Moka coffee shop drive-through exit. A No Left Turn sign is posted and this was the only sign required for project approval. Herman will be talking to the developer about paying for the additional signage, and Mark will follow up with Kurt Langer about what kind of signage is required for the exit. Mark commented that it would be more persuasive if the tenants in the building asked the developer to put in pedestrian signage. Herman will be talking to the coffee shop manager.

Herman talked about the heavy use of salt and sand on the roads this winter and expressed concern about how much of it will be washed into the lake this spring. He said that there is a need for more bioswales to keep salt in the ground and prevent it from going into the lake. Mark said he would look into whether or not University Avenue can be swept this spring earlier than usual. Bill added that readings (of the water quality measurements) of the springs are showing an increase in salinity.

Letter of Support for DNR Merrill Spring Park Grant

The letter of support (for the use of the DNR stewardship grant by the City to acquire land to expand Merrill Spring Park) that Greg wrote on behalf of the neighborhood association was approved with a minor change.

Spring Newsletter Articles: Due Thursday, March 20

There was a review of articles for the newsletter that will come out a couple of weeks before the spring general membership meeting (on 4/24). Greg asked for feedback on the look of the newsletter. There was general agreement that the format and content are okay. Greg asked for feedback about participation in the

neighborhood yard sale. A short discussion concluded with general agreement to discontinue the yard sale.

Spring General Meeting (Thursday, April 24th) – Guest Speaker?

Greg asked for names of possible speakers. Mark suggested Ken Bradbury (UW Extension--Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey) and there was general agreement that he would be an appropriate speaker given the neighborhood's concerns about water quality issues. Mary Beth said that she will ask Chuck (Dunning) to contact Ken about coming to speak at the meeting about ground water and well 14 aquifer issues.

City Report – Ald. Mark Clear

MGE will be trimming trees in Indian Hills and residents should have gotten a mailing about this.

County Report – Sup. Jeremy Levin

[sent by email 2/11/14]

Sorry, but I won't make it tonight. I picked up something during a week's long travel and probably best I limit exposure. I did want to mention that the 2013 Urban Water Quality Grants were finally approved last Thursday, I don't know what was the hang-up in Personnel & Finance, but it did include funding for the Willow Creek outfall, so that will hopefully have a positive effect on Lake Mendota. Here was an earlier press release: <https://www.countyofdane.com/press/details.aspx?id=3267>

Date of next meeting: Tuesday, March 11

Meeting adjourned at 8:35pm

Minutes submitted by Mary Beth Dunning