

Thursday, October 24, 2024

Approximately 35 people present, including Matt Seib (president), Joan Martin (treasurer), Erin McGrath (secretary), Liz Freitick, and Art Pratt.

We all enjoyed a lasagna potluck dinner.

Matt made the following announcements: Please rake leaves out of the street, the SHNA Halloween parade and carnival is on Sunday, October 27, we need a new Area 4 director.

Presentation by Matt Seib:

- Definition of Neighborhood Association vs. Homeowners Association
- History of SHNA:
 - Offer community events
 - Support other community groups
 - Get input on developments
 - Other activities
- Current status:
 - Community events: 4th of July parade and picnic; Labor Day Jazz picnic, and Halloween parade and carnival
 - Other groups we support: Indian Hills Garden Club, Friends of Merrill Springs
 - Other activities: Spring Harbor neighbors are responsible for maintaining the rain gardens in community spaces along Lake Mendota Drive
 - **Let's get information from Faith about the rain gardens and the people who maintain them (she has a group of about 40 people, including a "captain" for each garden plot)
 - ***We need more organization within SHNA, more documentation of what is happening and who is doing what, and to reinvigorate the association
 - We are all volunteers, we have limited resources and limited authority
 - We currently have unsustainable dues revenue
 - ***We need more participation
 - We have no young families at the dinner tonight
 - Can we change the meeting days and times?
 - How can we find ways to diversity participation and membership?
 - We have to demonstrate the value of SHNA
 - ***We need to communicate more and better
- Bylaws update
 - Last updated in 2006
 - A subcommittee is working with a lawyer to update the purpose statement to bring clarity and add language to modernize it
 - The subcommittee will bring the updated bylaws to the April 2025 All Neighbor Meeting for approval
- Facilitated discussion (7:05-7:30pm)
 - What things should SHNA be involved in?

- How can SHNA be relevant to more residents?
- What value does SHNA bring?
- How can you be involved?
- Ideas from neighbors:
 - Get the city to repair streets?
 - Matt's response: development from City Engineering brings out a lot of passion in people
 - It's difficult to gather a complete set of perspectives
 - How can SHNA holistically understand the issue at hand, so SHNA can speak on behalf of the entire neighborhood?
 - Maybe we ask the city to reorder which streets are repaired in the 5 year plan? Maybe we ask the alder to advocate for this?
 - Young families aren't here tonight, but they do attend our events
 - Matt's response: There seems to be a disconnect between participation and input
 - How many neighbors pay dues?
 - Joan's response: About 300 households pay dues, out of 1400 dwellings in the neighborhood (21% membership rate)
 - People can pay dues at All Neighbor meetings, at events, or on Cheddar Up (electronic payment)
 - We could have representatives go door to door, to interview neighbors face-to-face, or like a Welcome Wagon
 - Could we give a "Welcome to the Neighborhood" pamphlet to new neighbors?
 - Can we Zoom and record All Neighbor Meetings?
 - Could we offer a printed survey for people to complete at the 4th of July picnic?
 - Could we give neighbors a form to fill out to help us get to know each other (who has a boat, who likes to boat, who has x, who likes to x)
 - Have we talked to other neighborhood associations?
 - Could we have more frequent meetings?
 - We meet monthly on Zoom
 - Could we meet in person in a public space, like Dale Heights Church, and offer childcare and activities?
 - Post more information on website
 - How many people visit the website?
 - The traffic is currently light
 - How many people view the digital newsletter?
 - Could we put together a paper directory?
 - Could we organize events/outings on a bus?
 - People like the yard signs by intersections announcing events
 - Can we put a QR code on the signs with the link to membership?
 - Can we post information about SHNA at Crestwood Elementary and Spring Harbor Middle Schools?

- Can we get a berm in Lake Mendota at the beach to reduce weeds?
- Can we form more subcommittees to support events and activities?