

**Historic Milwaukie NDA**  
**June 13, 2022 Zoom Meeting Minutes**  
**6:30 - 8:00 p.m.**

**Present:**

**Officers:** Vice Chair and Land Use Rep, Val Hubbard; Secretary, Debbie Liptan; Treasurer, Michele Bertaux-Zabaglio

**Participants:** Ceci Denovi, Ross Lehman, Robbie Graves, Rachel Graves, David Hedges, Kelly Stewart, Michelle Murasan

**Special Announcement regarding Chair Leave of Absence:** Vice Chair Val Hubbard read a statement from Chair Rich Recker regarding a Temporary Leave of Absence he is taking to avoid an appearance of conflict of interest. His statement is attached to these minutes.

**Presentations & Discussions**

- Public Safety Notices - Capt. Robbie Graves reported about the departments ongoing staffing efforts. He mentioned several upcoming retirements, so the department is trying to get ahead that. The body worn cameras should be implemented in the pilot program in early August and department wide in September. In response to a question, Capt. Graves said that the recent incident at MHS turned out to be a "SWATTING" episode (making a prank call to emergency services in an attempt to bring about the dispatch of a large number of armed police officers to a particular address) which is serious, but not an actual threat.
- HMNDA's Beautification Efforts - Debbie Liptan updated the group about the committee's continuing efforts in sprucing up Main St. As of this meeting, the Wunderland corner is being adopted by Milwaukie Garden Club and Enchante's corner by the Rotary Club. "Adoption" means they take responsibility for keeping the corner cleaned up and watered through the season. Also, Cha Cha Cha and Sunshine Daycare are doing a great job with their corners. We are looking into the possibility of signs acknowledging "adoptions".
- Trees on Main St. - Michele Bertaux reported about current problems with trees and sidewalks on Main Street that were recently brought to our attention. Damage to the sidewalk on Main in front of the Collector's Mall has been caused by five street trees planted there in the 1990's timeframe. Val Hubbard, Debbie Liptan and Michele Bertaux participated in a meeting on May 27 to learn proposed solutions and the reasoning behind them.

Our main takeaways are the following benefits:

\***Public safety** - the proposal provides a thorough and long-lasting fix for sidewalk safety, including for those in wheelchairs or mobility-impaired in some way.

\***New trees** are smaller to begin with, but do **have canopies and retain greenery** - see recent replacement trees on Main and on Harrison. The new trees are the right trees for the location and **will last a long time without causing sidewalk damage.**

\*New sidewalk and tree-base materials allow for water to pass through, **relieving water runoff problems.**

\*Additionally, the materials clean metals and toxins from the water, **improving the water safety and quality.**

\***Funding is available** (almost all?) to do a complete job now.

Those of us present - Michele Bertaux, Val Hubbard and Debbie Liptan - are all in favor of going forward now with a complete replacement of the five problem trees and replacing the materials in the sidewalks and tree-wells as indicated in the plan.

#### **Preview and Discuss Grant Requests and Status:**

- Milwaukie Emergency Services - K9 Corps - David Hedges presented his grant request
- Sojourner School - Kelly Stewart presented her grant request
- Juneteenth - Vice Chair Val Hubbard presented this request on behalf of the requestor, since we did not give them adequate response time to present at this meeting.
- Milwaukie Sustainability Faire - presented in April
- Milwaukie HS Basketball - presented in May, but no actual grant request and no response about that to Chair Recker.

#### **HMNDA Formal Business Meeting [7:45-8:00 p.m.]**

- Chairperson Interim Leadership Plan - the 3 remaining officers will cover all of the responsibilities of the chair during the Mr. Recker's LOA. Debbie Liptan will be point of contact for correspondence.
- Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) rep for HMNDA - the NDA is looking for a volunteer to fill this vacant position.
- Grant Decisions -
  - ➡ Milwaukie Basketball - on hold pending receipt of grant application
  - ✓ K9 Corps 5k - approved for \$500
  - ✓ Juneteenth - approved for \$500, pending confirmation the grant is still needed
  - ✓ Milwaukie Sustainability Faire - approved for \$500
  - ➡ Sojourner School - on hold until next month for discussion of amount and further research
- Current Business -
  - Land-use Updates
    - Scott Park Reimagining - Michele Murasan
    - City Hall Repurposing - Val Hubbard
- Approval of Minutes [May '22] - Debbie Liptan - approved

#### ***Adjournment***

#### **STATEMENT REGARDING CHAIR RICH RECKER LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Rich Recker has shared his decision to take a leave of absence from the role of Chairperson of the HMNDA as of the beginning of this month. The other three leadership members - Val Hubbard, Debbie Liptan and Michele Bertaux - have agreed on an approach to work as a team to handle the work of the HMNDA during his leave. (Please direct correspondence and communications during this period to Debbie Liptan, HMNDA Secretary.)

In explanation, Rich has been connecting with certain organizations and individuals who are considering development of a competitive proposal in the City's RFP process to redevelop City Hall. This is a project that resonates with Rich, one which he feels very strongly about and would like to engage with.

The process and subsequent decision-making for the RFP will be formally connected with the HMNDA, making it appropriate and timely for Mr. Recker to take a formal leave as an officer and voting member and eliminate any real or perceived conflict of interest.

Rich has stated he will continue to work in the community as a citizen, with special attention to bridge-building - pulling all combinations of neighborhoods, organizations, businesses and individuals together to make a positive impact to an ever more livable, equitable and sustainable Milwaukee.