

EPNA Meeting Minutes (March 7, 2019)

Submitted by Ben Shannon, Secretary

Welcome and Approval of Minutes

Motion: Maggie moved to approve the February minutes (Tom second)

Vote: Unanimous Approval

Eken Park Festival Permits and Insurance

Subject: The Eken Park Fest needs to secure money from the EPNA to cover the costs of permits and insurance. The Festival Committee asked for \$2500. This was estimated based on last year's numbers, with the acknowledgement that some prices have changed.

Motion: Jim moved to approve up to \$2500 to cover the costs of permits for Street Use, Amplified Sound, Street Use Vending, and the cost of insurance for the festival. (Sue second)

Vote: Unanimous approval

Starkweather Bridge Mural

Subject: Zach reported on his efforts to secure a City of Madison Neighborhood Grant for \$2800 to paint a mural on one of the bridges crossing Starkweather Creek. The project, which will be completed this summer, will enlist the services of a mural artist and will involve neighborhood participation. It will involve the painting and installation of a series of mural panels on the bridge. These panels will depict fish and wildlife from Starkweather Creek. The costs of the project will be shared with the Friends of Starkweather Creek. Zach asked for approval to spend \$2800 on the mural project, noting that this money will cover the up-front costs of the project and will be reimbursed by the City of Madison grant. Zach asked for an additional \$250, which will not be reimbursed, and which will cover the costs of publicity/recruiting and snacks for volunteers.

Motion: Ben moved to approve \$2800 to be allocated for the Starkweather Mural Project, with an additional \$250 for publicity and snacks for volunteers, contingent upon the EPNA being awarded the Neighborhood Grant. (Maggie second)

Vote: Unanimous Approval

Neighborhood Spring Clean Up Date

Subject: The neighborhood spring clean up date is tentatively scheduled for Saturday April 20th. This date coincides with the Creek Clean Up Day sponsored by the Friends of Starkweather Creek. A back up date of April 27th is scheduled in case of bad weather.

Public Meeting for PFAS Contamination

Subject: On March 6, 2019, the Eken Park Neighborhood Association and Emerson East Neighborhood Association co-sponsored a public meeting with the City of Madison Water Utility and Public Health Madison & Dane County about PFAS contamination in local drinking water. At the event, representatives from the city and county organizations gave presentations and took questions. They informed residents that Well 15, which services parts of Eken Park and Emerson East, was contaminated by PFAS chemicals from firefighting foam used at Truax Field. The level of PFAS contamination in Well 15 is currently lower than the Environmental Protection Agency recommendation for safety and is therefore safe to drink. However, Well 15 is being shut down as a precaution while more tests are being completed. Water Utility and Public Health will continue to examine the issue, testing monthly. For more information, residents are advised to visit the following website:

<http://www.cityofmadison.com/water/water-quality/water-quality-testing/perfluorinated-compounds?fbclid=IwAR2EILxgueRAjkWWg8si7fvQ3-P6wlmOaBEdxUXEp0ve9YiLOMFpAb3-Mw>

Eken Park Festival Donations 2018

Subject: Tom asked that the EPNA allocate \$600 of the EP Festival proceeds to be donated to non-profits that serve the East Side Neighborhood (East Side Community Center and Operation Fresh Start). He believes that, in addition to being a sign of appreciation to good causes, this will help with fundraising for the Eken Park Festival by showing potential donors that the EPNA is giving back to the community and not just throwing a party.

Motion: Tom made a motion that \$600 total, \$300 each, be donated to East Side Community Center and Operation Fresh Start. (Bernice second)

Discussion:

- Erich announced that he would be abstaining from discussion and voting, given his conflict of interest as an employee of Operation Fresh Start.
- Jim suggested that, instead of a specific number, the EPNA should consider giving a percentage of the festival revenue to non-profits. Several comments were made about how the percentages might be calculated but nothing was decided.
- Ben said that the officer team discussed the situation prior to the meeting and recommended \$300 total be divided between the two non-profits. This recommendation was based upon the idea that this would double the EPNA's charitable donation after the EP Fest in 2017 (\$150), but that the EPNA needs a giving strategy in place before allocating more money. The officers also believe that the first priority should be to make enough money to perpetuate the EP Festival and, once that financial base is firm, any extra money could be allocated to other causes. He also noted that the EPNA currently does not have enough spare funds to cover the EP Festival costs.

- Maggie said that it had been her impression that the original purpose of the EP Fest was to directly benefit the Eken Park neighborhood, not outside organizations. She thought that its initial purpose was to be a community building event that created neighborhood pride, and that any profits were supposed to be returned to the neighborhood through EPNA sponsored projects. She did not oppose the idea of giving a percentage of the money to non-profits, but she thought the bulk of the money should be guided more directly to the neighborhood.

Vote: Votes in Favor (6), Votes Opposed (4), Abstentions (3)

Bashford Church as Reconciling Congregation

Subject: Rev. Amanda Stein, pastor at Bashford UMC, spoke to the EPNA about the recent decision of the world-wide United Methodist Council on the subject of homosexuality. She informed the group that the Bashford congregation has decided to break with the Council and officially identify itself as a "Reconciling Congregation." This means that it will still be considered a Methodist Church, but it will also openly welcome members of the LGBTQ community.

Open Comments

Larry wanted to draw attention to efforts to put speed bumps on Coolidge St.

Bylaws Update

Subject: The Officers Team has worked on updating the EPNA bylaws to more accurately reflect the current condition of the association. The two primary changes involve restructuring the purpose statement and adding a section on committee formation. Other changes included reorganizing or rewording sections for greater clarity, but without altering intent.

Discussion:

Ben wanted to make it clear that the officers encourage members to take their time reading the bylaws and to alert the group about anything they have questions about or want greater clarity about.

Tom stated his support for the bylaws as written and thanked the Officers Team for their hard work.

Motion: Erich made a motion to approve the updated bylaws and send them on to the stage of final approval (i.e. at the next meeting in which a quorum is present).

Vote: Unanimous Approval

Jim moved to adjourn (Ben second)