

MADRONA COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES--5 April 2011

PRESENT: Paige Smith, Bill Mahoney, Barney Mansavage, Holly Smith, Susan Minogue, Melissa Cate Christ, Karin Richard, Kim Herber, Casey Losh, Brooke Bascomb, Annie Ala (BOOM V-P), Dave Cordova, Cindy Burdell, Stan Lock, Jay and Deirdre McCrary

News from Paige: She has moved to Eastlake and will no longer be considering the job of president of MCC. A realtor in the neighborhood, Kevin O'Doherty, has offered to return a percentage of his home sales in the neighborhood to MCC. He was asked to join the board and has expressed interest in doing so. Holly nominated him (despite Kevin's absence) as a board member, and Paige seconded the nomination. Vote was unanimous and suggestion was made by some wag that he might consider filling the presidency.

News from Karin about Garfield CC: Garfield will be offering tennis at the tennis courts, soccer at the playfield, and a musical storyteller at the shelterhouse. They plan to offer a senior coffee at the shelterhouse once a month and Spanish lessons here in the fall. There might be a preschool program at Garfield. Masvita now wants to offer more programs at the shelterhouse because he needs our numbers to combat coming city budget cuts. Currently ten to eighteen families come consistently to Storytime, and Karin is looking for someone as permanent organizer/presenter of that activity. MCC's contract with Garfield expired in August 2010 and needs to be re-negotiated regarding use of the shelterhouse. There will be a business meeting of the MCC board in June before we meet with Masvita in July to re-negotiate.

Stan Lock, Dept. of Neighborhoods: He described his background of work with the city over 27.5 years, 21 of which were with Dept. of Neighborhoods. He reports that another 3% cut is probably coming, on top of previous cuts. He described the services available at the various service centers including ours on Jackson: pay utilities, renew or apply for passport, get pet license, and receive free legal advice at their legal clinic. The department went from 13 to 9 neighborhood district coordinators in previous cuts. The Central region has five districts as far-ranging as Magnolia and Queen Anne. The Statement of Legislative Intent asks the mayor to come up with a model to do community outreach with fewer people and still serve as a liaison between the city and special interest groups that deal with the city. His department also runs the neighborhood matching fund, historic preservation, and mitigating expansion of schools and hospitals.

The neighborhood councils are organized in two parts: a city neighborhood council, which comprises a delegate from each of the district neighborhood councils, and the district councils, which comprise representatives from each neighborhood in the district. The Neighborhood District Councils share information from delegates throughout the city and are asked to review matching-fund applications and park projects. They act as advisory bodies to the city and send one delegate to the City Neighborhood Council. Stan Lock would like MCC to weigh in regarding the value of the services provided by the Dept. of Neighborhoods. Susan will write a letter to both the Mayor and the City Council from MCC in support of the Dept. of Neighborhoods.

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Stan Lock sends out information via email about what is going on in our district, and anyone can be added to his email list. He also stressed the preliminary nature of the cuts and the plans to mitigate them.

The first Tuesday in August is the National Blockwatch Night. Dept. of Neighborhoods can provide gloves, pick-up tools, and safety vests for neighborhood clean-ups.

Melissa Cate Christ will send information regarding the wading pool issue to Stan for dissemination through his list-serve.

Susan presented two ideas for future meeting topics: King County Assessor Hara has offered to attend a future meeting to talk about what his office does, how values are assessed and disputed, and answer questions from citizens. Deirdre will confirm his attendance at the May 3 meeting and ask whether he can provide additional specific information about Madrona, as well as advertising his coming in the next newsletter.

Susan suggested the topic of disaster preparedness as timely, though probably more appropriate for an at-large meeting that MCC would host and bring in people who do community preparedness training. SNAP stands for Seattle Neighborhoods Actively Prepared, and the group has plans worked out for preparing individual households as well as the larger community. SNAP will bring information and staff to our event. We could partner with the school to use the gym to host a large event and then possibly hold detailed meetings on specific topics later. Susan will contact the point person for SNAP and ask about timing and format.

MAYFAIR: The Paypal account is set up on the MCC website. Stacey is looking for volunteers for various jobs, from cookie baking to traffic patrol. She or Nikki Lundin has a break-down of the tasks--pony rides, face painting, bouncy house, etc. She needs people in shifts of 1-1/2 hours. Cindy Burdell inquired about outside food vendors, and Paige explained that the profits go back to Mayfair after individual vendors like St. Cloud's cover costs. Madrona K-8 does the beverages as a fund raiser for the school. Paige offered to introduce Cindy to Nikki and Stacey if she would like to participate under that set-up.

Annie Ala noted the contact for BOOM as madronabusinesses@gmail.com.

Melissa presented details about the issue of a neighborhood wading pool: There are now two in Leschi, but they have been closed for the past two years. Judkins and Pratt are in our neighborhood but have shooting water, not appropriate for little ones. Parks is looking for partners to sponsor the pools and has had some interest from West Seattle and Ravenna as well as Melissa for Madrona. She seeks to open the wading pool, presently closed for budget cuts, located in Powell Barnett Park in Leschi. There is a Paypal account set up for donations, and she has \$400 so far. She seeks the support of MCC in her efforts to re-open the pool this summer three days a week. She will notify all parent groups in the area. At \$550/day, she needs to raise \$13,200, or

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\$8,000 to open it two days a week. There is an early deadline for raising the funds because of Parks' need to publish its summer informational booklets. Someone suggested applying to the Kraus fund, although the project is not in Madrona. Paige will send Melissa the pdf of the application. Melissa will write a story for the newsletter. Barney will email photos of his kids enjoying the pool. Melissa notes that she calculates a cost of \$15 to fill an individual kiddie pool for the summer.

Tee Shirts #1 and #5 were selected as the two to be printed. Individuals can order them online from Cafe Press T-Shirts and have them before Mayfair, so that there is no upfront cost to MCC for shirts.

Seattle Parks has inquired whether the \$500 awarded to the Harrison Ridge project still is available. Deirdre told Jon Martin of Parks that the matching grant is good as long as work on the Madrona section south of Denny is initiated by June of this year. Parks plans to send a crew as early as next week to treat the holly and other large invasives but wants to know, since the Madrona section doesn't actually fall under Parks' jurisdiction as a park, that there will be volunteers willing to continue the work and maintain it. No one present showed interest, so Deirdre will suggest that Daniel Johnson, who applied for and received the grant from MCC, pursue a commitment from those currently working on the section north of Denny to work in this section as well.

Madrona Blogpost is now incorporated into Central District News Blog.

Earth Day is April 16. Nora's Wood holds a clean-up on the Saturday after EarthDay.

Tuesday, April 12, is the night to go out to dinner to benefit Madrona K-8. There will be a breakfast on the weekend of April 28 and 29, which is a kick-off, pep rally for the students, who will be taking the state tests on the following Monday. The school needs servers.

Madrona Yard Sale: Kim is no longer organizing the sale but will email last year's organizer to see whether she is interested in doing a sale again.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50

Submitted by Deirdre McCrary, Secretary