

Madrona Community Council Minutes, June 3, 2014

PRESENT: Fran Wood, Dan Sanchez, Mike Walker, Mary Gallway, Stacey Kryman, Bill Mahoney, Holly Smith, Susan Minogue, Soni Davé, Sandra Bertolio, Mark Bertolio, Rob Ward, Paul Gomez, Barbara Parker, Brian dePlace (SDOT), Alexa McIntyre, Colleen Shanahan, Casey Losh, Kristina Gann (urban planner), Deirdre McCrary

After introductions of those present, Holly explained that the first agenda item, report on the 23rd Avenue Action Plan, would not happen because Quanlin, the principal planner, is out of town.

PARKLET ON 34TH:

Soni spoke for several representatives of the planning process for the parklet (business sponsors, RCL Designs, BOOM, Brian dePlace from SDOT, and Kristina Gann, an urban planner. The idea is to convert the city right-of-way into a public gathering space. Although the idea was initiated by the community, it will be privately funded and will convert one parking space in front of Hi Spot into a gathering space for the public to sit, eat, or hang out. The inspiration for the design is “stoop culture,” which creates two heights or platforms like stair-steps and includes garden space. Private donations so far total \$9,000 from a number of local businesses, and Soni is looking for \$6,000 to \$7,000 more to complete the project. Sponsors donating a minimum of \$500 will have their names etched into a laser-cut wood sign that will be incorporated into Tom Flood’s historic metal sign from the old gas station. For the first year Molly Moon will pay for the liability insurance and Hi Spot will maintain the space, and responsibilities would be renegotiated each year.

Currently the project is in the stage of community review. The next step is a review by SDOT, with a completion date targeted for September, allowing a work party for planting in late August. The design firm will help in choosing appropriate plants that will look good throughout the year and require little maintenance. Once the application has been submitted, there will be a 10-day formal public comment period, during which a sign would be posted at the site with information about the project and how to comment. Soni asked that MCC help spread the word about the project, donate to its funding, and join the work party in August. Stacey suggested that Soni also use [nextdoormadrona](#) as a resource to get the word out.

Fran Wood raised the issue of losing a parking space, which also arose at last month’s MCC meeting, and Sandra Bertolio questioned whether the planned space would only add to congestion, suggesting instead that Hi Spot and Bottlehouse might instead re-landscape and re-design their frontages to be more accommodating to people hanging out. Brian dePlace described the city’s approach to this pilot project and how it is being done in Portland and San Francisco. Others pointed out that one parking space is a good trade-off for enhancing community gathering, that issues of liability and other technical requirements arise for business owners opening private space for public use, and that the issue of parking has been simmering for a long time and is not just arising because of the exchange of this one space. One of the urban planners pointed out the comparison to the planned parklet in front of Cortona Cafe on Union, where the goal is to bring more people to the community.

PARKING:

Holly suggested that it might be time to request a parking study from the city, which might result in a zoned system for the business district, although doing so would require homeowners to get and yearly renew their permits to park. Casey observed that the permit process can have the effect of pushing more cars into the residential area, as happened in Madison Park. One issue is the number of people from outside the neighborhood who park here all day and use the Microsoft Connector--good that they used shared transportation but bad for the businesses and residents of Madrona. Brian dePlace described how the city would do the study based upon the times of day in which parking issues arise. In Madrona it would be restaurants and commuters, so the city would assess parking during those times. He described other possible mitigations besides the RPZ that the city might propose to solve the problem. Holly called for a vote on writing a letter requesting a parking study from the city. The motion passed.

MAYFAIR:

Stacey reported that all went well, including the weather. Casey summarized the financial results from several years' accounts. In the past Mayfair cost MCC several thousand dollars, and now it actually makes some money, this year only \$22.83, and last year more than \$2,000. Having two new sponsors this year helped with costs. Expenses were greater this year, \$5,200 this year versus \$2,500 last year. We had to pay for the bouncy house (\$750) this year, whereas we were able to borrow it from Garfield in the past. The photo booth and bouncy house were the principal increases in cost. Stacey believes that if the photo booth had been more visible, possibly in its own tent instead of in the shelterhouse, it would have been more successful. Rob noted that we could have sold more hot dogs, 300 to 350, and we sold less water than last year, but water sales are weather dependent. Stacey will look into getting a coffee cart for next year. All in all, Mayfair was a great success, and compliments were lavished on Stacey for her organization.

FUTURE EVENTS:

Movie in the Park--Last year only about 50 people attended, in part because of the late starting hour in mid-summer. John Platt doesn't want to lose money, as happened last year, so he isn't enthusiastic about another summer movie. Stacey suggested instead holding a summer concert, as has been done by Epiphany and Madison Park. Stacey said it would cost about \$200 to get a park-use permit, plus the cost of the band(s). Food could be ice cream and John's Mix-Up. We need to find out about insurance. Bill will get a list of the bands Epiphany used. Dan Sanchez thought we could hire bands for less than the cost of the movie. Barbara recalled that Vivian Williams, a Madrona resident, had offered to do a concert for us as a fund-raiser. St. Cloud's books bands, and we could ask John for suggestions. Barbara reminded us that we are already stretched thin for volunteer service and questioned whether we want to add yet another event. She reported that Randy Apsel had asked about re-starting the garden tours, and she suggested that he might want to take that on. Perhaps we could discuss the various proposals from the community at a summer board meeting.

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Wine Tasting--Stacey looked at the Aegis facility, which is interested in hosting the wine event for us. It provides a much larger and very beautiful space, with a chef on site and sufficient glassware. There could be parking in the Safeway lot. We might instead partner with Leschi and use their space. Stacey could manage the event if we held it after November 15. Stacey will talk more with Aegis, and we'll make plans at the summer meeting.

Summer Board Meeting: Holly offered his downtown space and he'll see about a date in the last week in July, not Nikki's birthday.

TREES AND SIDEWALKS:

Wayne Duncan dropped of a summary of the last meeting held on this issue, as follows:

Summary of Trees & Sidewalks Operations Plan May 29th Meeting at Madrona K-8 School Library

Jennifer Wieland, project manager from SDOT, and Amalia Leighton, project manager from SvR Design, presented their key recommendations for the "toolkit" to use in resolving sidewalk and tree issues in the Madrona 34th Ave corridor. In the future they will increase the use of root pruning, increase the tree pit size (that trees are planted in), build more curb bulbs, and continue to use concrete as the main sidewalk surface (possibly with rebar). Most of the trees evaluated on 34th Ave. were judged to be in "fairly good health" by SDOT arborists with several decades of life ahead. One area of clear innovation in the proposal is utilizing soil analysis and enhancement ("amendment") more consistently and effectively to help redirect root growth and minimize sidewalk problems. This will require additional staff time when analyzing tree situations but will result in better long-term outcomes, staff offered. They recommended that a full survey of the 34th Ave corridor be done as part of the next steps, and that the community will need to participate in grant writing in order to fund all of the work that needs to be done in the corridor over the next several years. Some grant-funding options were delineated. In late June the SDOT/SvR team will have a draft operations plan ready, and public comment will be sought in early July. The final operations plan is expected to be ready in late July, and construction work on the 34th Ave corridor, especially the 900 block, is planned for the fall. One important note: City Light's arborist participated in the meeting, as did Deputy Interim Director of SDOT Barbara Gray. About 15 Madrona residents participated.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Balance in checking is \$30,224

\$12,000 in savings, which is really the Blossom account, and Blossoms owes us \$9,000, so we really have about \$40,000. Kraus fund is down to around \$20,000 now, after paying for the project in Nora's Wood.

Casey proposes using a page like that on Mt. Baker's website, where they collect all the advertising revenue on the website. Casey will find out the cost and details to add a purchasing page for donors and advertisers to go to the website and make their payment with a credit card. The user can attach the ad and pay all in one function on that page, and it will allow incorporating google docs. Stacey would like to see a cloud location for storing all the historical information from events like Mayfair and the wine tasting for future reference.

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The next meeting will be in September.

Adjourned at 8:50.

Submitted by Deirdre McCrary, Recording Secretary