

**MADRONA COMMUNITY COUNCIL, October 2, 2012**

**PRESENT:** Kim Herber, Nikki Lundin, Soni Dave-Schock, Rob Ward, Barbara Parker, Casey Losh, Susan Minogue, Jason Cook, John Lahti, Sarah Westneat, Kevin O'Doherty, Marian Mullaly, Jim Brown, Jim Richardson, Helen Payton, Carrie Stanfield, Germaine D'Anniballe, Rick Stanfield, David Baylon, Marcella Kelly, Wayne Duncan, Deirdre McCrary

Vice-President Susan Minogue began the meeting, standing in for Holly Smith.

**Sidewalk Trees:** Sarah reported on her work with people and ideas to repair the sidewalks along 34th without taking out mature trees. Her committee has prepared a draft plan to submit to MCC and to SDOT in the hope of partering with both agencies. Six trees in the 900 block of 34th have been removed so far, and 29 more are identified for removal. Her group believes that such an action would destroy the tree canopy, and the group is looking for alternatives for the six blocks from Pike to Cherry and the single block on Union St. Their report labels each tree and describes alternative sidewalk materials and engineering techniques that the group has researched and gathered. The group has chosen one they favor and included information about it in the draft. They have hired an independent arborist to evaluate trees slated for removal on Saturday. BOOM is also hoping for alternatives to removal. Sarah's committee wants feedback and additional committee members to help with applying for grants, fundraising, lobbying SDOT if the agency is uncooperative.

Other neighbors present believe they haven't been kept in the loop and want the trees on their block to be removed, according to the original plan, which is fully funded, long awaited (17 years), and scheduled to happen next weekend.

Sarah believes SDOT should be looking at the community as a whole, but residents want the problem dealt with now. This group suggests making a plan for the rest of the corridor but taking care of the immediate need, since the funds exist to do it. These neighbors object to not having been included in the planning, in spite of having made their interest and contact information available. They assert that there was no collaboration or agreement involving the people most affected, those who actually live adjacent. They believe the people directly involved need to be engaged in the process and wonder how adjacent neighbors will react in the future if they aren't included in the overall planning.

Wayne says their plan for newer material, Terra Walk, is stronger and has better technical properties than pouring more concrete, and it would preserve the trees. Initial removal came about because of the need for ADA compliance and handicap accessibility, according to one of the dissenting neighbors. Susan noted that there is agreement on the ideals for the community but that the City has failed to produce a plan in spite of the need for one.

Whether the plan for the three trees will go ahead is unknown, but a neighborhood group has actively campaigned to stop the plan.

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Sarah further reports that Terra Walk has been installed in Kirkland. Rubber sidewalks have not worked out well. Terra Walk is modular and permeable at the edges [note: the printed document says that it is both water and air permeable(?)]. It allows root pruning at the sections. It is more costly than concrete (\$19 versus \$15/square foot). Terra Walk can accommodate a slope.

Some Council members expressed appreciation to Sarah and her group for the research and deliberation. The next step is to determine whether the work will go ahead on Saturday. The Council would like to see more discussion and involvement of the larger community by taking the digital format of the group's report to the MCC site and directing readers to it in the Madrona Newsletter. Council members felt that online is not enough communication, and 34th Avenue property owners should have copies themselves and then be able to discuss options and have a dialogue with SDOT and Liz Ellis. There must be time at the next meeting for discussion after people have had a chance to digest the document, or the Council could put together a special, one-topic meeting. There should be a follow-up within the 900 block as well as sending information via the Google Group and using other venues to disseminate the information before setting up a meeting. Soni said BOOM will try to get information out at their meeting October 3 at St. Clouds and also at the quarterly mixer on October 23 at Madrona Wine Merchants, MCC invited. Susan will send the email list from tonight to Soni [as soon as Deirdre gets it to her--sorry].

SDOT and Sarah's group concede that the existing variety of maple trees was a poor choice for street trees., and, where trees might be replaced, they are looking at other species. The City maintains that there is not sufficient room for new trees.

Wayne would like to see MCC weigh in on the plan as a group.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Casey reports that there is \$15,500 in the Kraus fund, \$250 in the Paypal account, \$5,000 in checking, and \$14,000 in savings, most of which is dedicated to Blossoms. Accounts below \$2,500 are charged by Bank of America, and ideally we should have a minimum of \$5,000. \$5,000 is still owed to the Kraus fund. More will be raised with the wine event and the wreath sale.

The newsletter cost about \$2,250 this year, but actually only a total of about \$500 with adjustments. Barbara and Casey have decided to limit ads to 5 pages and total size to 12 pages. Some ads will no longer run--Kismet, Madrona Computer, 19th Pilates, Moss Alley Motors--so Casey needs to make up the funds. New Leschi businesses were suggested--the Thai restaurant, bike shop, etc.

Casey will check with Stacey about the request of an individual for repayment for map copies for the garage sale.

**WREATH SALE, ETC.:** Kevin reports from Stacey that preparations for Halloween are in place. The wine tasting was approved by Glassybaby to increase capacity to 120 from 80, and the new price will be \$30. Restaurants through BOOM may donate food.

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The Brown Paper Ticket site is now available to buy tickets, and tickets will likely sell out early. Jason will get something onto the MCC site about the ticket sales. Kevin will arrange for and pay for tables, cloths, glasses, as he did last year. We'll pay no rent as long as 40 Glassybabies are sold. Hours are 6:30 to 9:30, Nov. 3, at the Glassybaby studio. Word should go out on Madrona Moms and the Council website, and Jason will arrange for a link back to the ticket site.

Kevin will send out an email with a photo of a wreath. The Bellingham manufacturer will provide up to 500 if we can sell them. They will deliver on December 1 to the Amara parking lot. Wreaths are \$30 and are purchased through Brown Paper Ticket, which will provide a ticket to use to collect the purchased wreath on pick-up day. Individuals will need to pick up the wreaths themselves, but we likely need to make provision for no-shows who have paid for wreaths. Possibly additional pick-up could be at the December MCC meeting, but that shouldn't be announced until after December 1 when we know what remains.

The kick-off will be at Halloween, and volunteers are needed to staff a table for an hour and take orders. There will be samples to show. It would be helpful to have additional places in the business district where people could go to order one, maybe Ewing & Clark? The wholesale cost is \$20, and they will sell for \$30, with a Brown Paper Ticket charge of \$.99. We can assess the success and decide whether to charge more for wreaths in the future. We won't ship, but we can sell boxes on distribution day for those wanting to ship.

Kevin reports no progress on uniforms for Madrona K-8

Deirdre reported that the holiday living tree sale will run concurrently with the wreath sale. Potted grand firs will be available in two sizes, 5 gallon and 7 gallon, for \$30 and \$45 respectively. Peter has ordered 15 5-gallon and 4 7-gallon trees. Each tree can be donated for planting in Madrona Woods if the buyer chooses. A sample of each tree, one with lights, will be on display at Halloween for folks to order, and they will be advertised in tandem with the wreaths in a donated ad being designed by Judith Starbuck for the newsletter. Trees can be used indoors for a short time or outdoors for a longer time if they are kept watered. If it turns out that more than 19 trees are ordered, we can order more from our supplier before December, or any unsold trees will simply be planted in the woods.

**ELECTIONS IN NOVEMBER:** Susan and Holly began their roles as vice-president and president in January of 2010 and signed up again in November of 2011. Deirdre will not be continuing as secretary, and we need to encourage people to fill the job. Casey will stay another year. Holly would probably welcome a replacement, and there may be someone else interested in the job of president.

Susan noted that the Central Area District Council is going through the process of confirming its membership and updating its by-laws, which reminded her of our own by-laws regarding elections and officers. According to the by-laws, a voting board member

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must own property, go to school, or work in Madrona. The map of Madrona boundaries and the by-laws are available on the website, according to Jason.

An urgent email to current Council members or the GoogleGroup or Madrona Moms was suggested as a way to reach neighbors and urge them to run for election in November. Susan reiterated that it is one-to-one contact that recruits new people.

Submitted by Deirdre McCrary, Secretary