

**PRESENT:** Barney Mansavage, Susan Minogue, Casey Losh, Nikki Lundin, Kevin O'Doherty, Barbara Parker, Karin Richard, Bill Mahoney, Sarah Westneat, Rob Ward, Holly Smith, Mazvita Maraire, Jason Cook, Deirdre & Jay McCrary

**NEIGHBORHOOD APPRECIATION DAY RE-CAP:** As reported by the four council members who attended, the event was a great success--packed house, tear-jerker, attended by neighbors from long ago, grandparents, and students from 40 years ago. Attendees were warmed by the occasion and remarked that it is nice to see the neighborhood rejuvenated. Susan reminded us that it is half the council's event and that we should therefore be present and represented in greater numbers than we were.

**STREET TREES:** Sarah said there is a meeting next Thursday, April 12, 8 pm at Verité to get ready for a later meeting with SDOT, which wants to take out three trees in 2012 (the remainder of the block they have already done, with results mimicking what has already been done), despite the agency's being asked to wait. She needs bodies present for the SDOT meeting which might be as early as the next day, Friday, April 13, Sarah has information about replacing the present concrete with a rubberized sidewalk that would be porous at the seams, can be removed more easily to fix eruptions, and might allow some of the trees to stay. A representative from Cambium has been invited and has committed to attending. Sarah will leaflet the affected area about the meeting and invite those neighbors to attend the meeting. Trees that are removed won't be replaced without the addition of sidewalk bulbs. SDOT wants to use this opportunity to get rid of species that shouldn't have been planted in the first place. The rubberized sidewalk has been used on the west side of Queen Anne around Highland Drive. Adjacent neighbors maintain there was a lack of notice about the meeting in which the vote was taken and that the vote is an invalid representation. Karin brought up the issue of adjacent neighbors' liability for injuries caused by the uneven sidewalk. There is an issue about the City's tree map, which has been requested numerous times but which SDOT won't release. Holly will try to get the map from Liz Ellis. What are the options? An overall plan is still needed. The issue is becoming highly political. Can the trees be root-pruned? Each tree has to be assessed professionally to avoid the poor pruning previously done, which resulted in bad haircuts and ugly trees. The new sidewalks must be wider, making the planting strip even narrower. Sarah reiterated that everyone wants the sidewalks fixed; her group is just trying to do that while saving as many trees as practical.

**MOBILE HENS:** Dylan Morris, from UW and a Madrona resident, is interested in sustainable farming and would like to pursue a project that would bring chickens to the neighborhood in a way that would allow them to move among houses week-by-week. He maintains that the presence of the birds would increase awareness of food sources, reduce the need for artificial fertilizers, and reduce insect pests, while providing the host family with fresh eggs for the week or weeks. Question: Do the chickens come with moveable coop and fence? The council suggested that Dylan take the lead if he/she wants to pursue a plan, and the council will publicize the plan.

**MAYFAIR UPDATE:** Stacey reported that we have four sponsors and a total of \$2,000 up front for Mayfair. The concert will be sponsored by Lakeview Orthodonture; the bouncy house will come from Garfield CC; Ewing & Clark are sponsoring the ponies; Harvard Preschool will manage the face painting. Madrona Family Dentist will sponsor Charles the Clown. Reptile Man will be there. Cupcake Royale [?] is providing baby cupcakes. There will be a 30-minute kids concert with a band of guitars. CleanScapes is doing the recycling. St. Cloud's will do both morning and afternoon food. Sponge, a language school, may do the Mother's Day craft project. Sponsorships are now closed so that the poster and street banner can be re-designed. The pancake breakfast will happen at the school from 8 to 9:15 before a 9:30 start of the parade. Tricycle decorating will happen before the parade. Kim was not present to report on the hotdog sale, but the assumption is that it will go forward and will include the sale of water as well. If items for that sale aren't donated, the council will buy them for re-sale. Rob Ward volunteered to grill. It was agreed to merge the bake sale, hot dog sale, and water sale to decrease staffing required. Edie Hall will get volunteers for the bake sale. Parking lots or spaces adjacent to Amara, Driftwood, and Bottlehouse will host outdoor activities. No tee shirt design was submitted this year, so Stacey will use the tee shirts to display sponsors' logos as well as the MayFair poster. She has found a person in the neighborhood who has her own café press to do on-demand printing.

**INSURANCE:** Casey asked for approval of his plan, described in an email, to switch insurance carriers. A new wrinkle emerged, however, when the new carrier, who had said there would be no extra cost for MayFair, learned that there would be animals present at the event. Casey will evaluate options and resolve the insurance issue in the cheapest way.

**MADRONA K-8:** The school is fighting to maintain its current funding in the face of under-enrollment, as defined by the district. Beyond the opportunity for the work party, there is a need to help the larger community understand the school's problems and get involved in the solution. On April 4 there was the possibility to speak at an open mic to request a halt to some of the funding reductions that will prevent further progress on programs that have begun and are working. Future meetings, one with the Superintendent, will give people a chance to request more consistency in funding so that yearly budget cuts don't prevent the maintenance and evolution of good programs. Barney suggested that a letter from MCC making these points be presented to the Superintendent.

The school is at 55% capacity with a projected fall enrollment of 315, same as last year's projection. Capacity is 500. Right now those enrolled enjoy the benefits of small classes, but Karin fears that the district will shut down the school rather than continue to run it under-enrolled. She spoke about the importance to the neighborhood of having a neighborhood public school. Currently there are 376 kids in Madrona eligible for public school. Even if every Madrona child who is eligible went to Madrona K-8, it still couldn't reach the needed minimum of 400.

The council agreed to write a letter with signatures from each participating member included. The message in the letter should be that we support the programs the school now offers and request no big changes to "fix" the school. At risk is the quality of

children's education if the momentum required to build good programs is lost because the district makes decisions based on numbers, and those decisions undermine the effectiveness of the very programs designed to draw the numbers the school needs.

**MUSICAL BENEFIT FOR MCC:** A Madrona couple since 1965, the Williams, have offered to do a musical benefit for MCC. They play fiddle, banjo, and guitar and do concerts with a historical theme--Lewis & Clark, Oregon Trail, Old West. Barbara also wondered about the possibility of securing a grant to take their music into Madrona K-8. They have been recipients of such grants as Humanities Washington, Park Service, and National Endowment for the Arts. Deirdre suggested small-and-simple neighborhood grant or Arts in the School, if that still exists. For MCC perhaps they could do a concert similar to the ones done in Madison Park or maybe one at the school in the fall. Barbara will talk with them to see about timing and possibilities.

**MOVIE NIGHT:** Barbara pointed out that only three people voted and wondered whether that response indicates level of interest. Questions were raised about the cost (whether Garfield CC will have the licensing and equipment--Mazvita said he'll work on it--probably \$300 to \$500) and about whether we're planning the summer wine tasting as well (Stacey thought not). Because of the need for earlier darkness, August or September were designated. Jason, Stacey, and [Bill? Barney?] will work on a plan.

**GARFIELD CC:** Mazvita reported about budget cuts affecting community centers in all three districts. Garfield received an increase to 70 hours despite cuts elsewhere. His focus is on bringing in fee-based programs to help the financial stresses for Seattle Parks. He will offer camps, after-school partnerships, more creative programming, and he hopes to partner with Madrona to share kids and dollars and meet goals. He reports that kids are signing up for the camps. He is working on the marketing, trying to bring in non-users and make people aware of the center and what it offers. He is looking for people's ideas. He has resources MCC can tap--spaces for rental, private parties, school auctions, classes.

The bathroom remodel may start at the end of summer. Mazvita plans to get rid of the long wooden bench in the shelterhouse and has added a raft of chairs to replace it. The closet on the north side will be cleared out and the existing closet will be emptied and moved to the new space.

**EMAIL DECISIONS:** Susan made a plea for people to respond to requests by email to move decisions forward without a formal in-person vote. She cited the request regarding the Judkins Park Promenade issue and noted that lack of response or any sort of quorum created problems for the person in charge of the decision. In future those decisions where action is required will contain **MCC VOTE BY ----** in the subject line.

**SUPPORT AND PARTICIPATION:** Susan reiterated the need to staff and attend the events we sponsor. She urged those unable to attend to recruit people by reaching out to neighbors and people who have enjoyed those events. We need to fill the pipeline to

ensure a succession of knowledge and support for the continuation of a neighborhood council.

**NEWSLETTER MAILING ISSUE:** Barbara reported on the problem that has developed with USPS over our non-profit status. Before the current and now overdue newsletter can go out at non-profit rates (half the regular rate), the current USPS official who is blocking the mailing is requiring documentation in the form of MCC's articles of incorporation, which no living council member seems to have or know anything about. Deirdre will drive to Olympia and get the documents on Wednesday.

**DINE OUT IN MADRONA:** Barney reminded folks that eating out in Madrona at participating restaurants on April 10 will bring a percentage of proceeds to the school and urged everyone to participate. Jason will add that information to the website.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45

Submitted by Deirdre McCrary, Secretary